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THORNTON R. SAMPSON

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A LIFE SKETCH

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ARTHUR G. JONES



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WITHDRAWN











THORNTON ROGERS SAMPSON

# Thornton Rogers Sampson

D. D., LL. D.

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1852-1915

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## A Biographical Sketch

BY

ARTHUR GRAY JONES, D. D.

*Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church*

*San Antonio, Texas*

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## FOREWORD

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The materials of this sketch have been assembled and articulated in narrative form amid the multiplied cares of a busy city pastorate. Of the fact that the life herein set forth is worthy to have its labors and achievements cast into some permanent form we have no doubt. Of the value of the memoir as here presented we have no confident opinion. The writer has felt no special qualification for the task except a desire to write a good word and true of his friend who has gone. If in any way this tribute which we would dedicate to his memory may be used of God to accomplish any good we shall be humbly grateful.

A. G. JONES.

*San Antonio, May, 1917.*

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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|                                                                                   |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Thornton Rogers Sampson.....                                                      | <i>Frontispiece</i><br><i>Facing Page</i> |
| Birthplace at Hampden-Sidney.....                                                 | 12                                        |
| T. R. Sampson, while a Student in Germany.....                                    | 44                                        |
| Mrs. T. R. Sampson, Before Her Marriage.....                                      | 78                                        |
| T. R. Sampson and Helen, at the Home of American<br>Consul Lazzaro, Salonika..... | 118                                       |





# CONTENTS

|                                            | <i>Page</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Introduction.....                          | 9           |
| I                                          |             |
| Birth and Family Traditions.....           | 11          |
| II                                         |             |
| Early Years and Student Life.....          | 17          |
| III                                        |             |
| Missionary Call.....                       | 24          |
| IV                                         |             |
| Settlement in Greece.....                  | 30          |
| V                                          |             |
| Missionary Labors in Athens.....           | 37          |
| VI                                         |             |
| Service in Salonika.....                   | 48          |
| VII                                        |             |
| Return to America.....                     | 54          |
| VIII                                       |             |
| Labors at Fredericksburg and Sherman.....  | 59          |
| IX                                         |             |
| Austin Theological Seminary.....           | 66          |
| X                                          |             |
| Resignation of the Presidency.....         | 75          |
| XI                                         |             |
| Change of Location to "Seminary Hill"..... | 82          |
| XII                                        |             |
| Conference for Education in Texas.....     | 90          |
| XIII                                       |             |
| Last Days.....                             | 113         |
| XIV                                        |             |
| Conclusion.....                            | 130         |





# INTRODUCTION

BY THE REV. WALTER W. MOORE, D. D., LL. D.,  
*President Union Theological Seminary*

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Dr. Sampson was a man of vivid personality. He made an indelible impression on me the first time I ever met him. That was at Hampden-Sidney about thirty-three years ago, just after I had become an instructor at Union Seminary in the department which his gifted and honored father had taught for sixteen years with unsurpassed skill and success. I remember as if it were yesterday the flood of emotion which swept over him when I took him to the old chapel in the basement of the seminary where the daily prayer service was held with the students. He was so deeply moved that for some time he could not repress his tears and restrain his feelings sufficiently to begin the service. He had been born at Hampden-Sidney and had been a student there both in college and seminary, and the sight of that familiar chapel awakened memories which overcame him. That was my first glimpse of his tender heart. Later on during his visit I received other impressions of him—his exuberant vitality, his scintillating wit, his copious information, his racy address to the students on mission work in Greece—such are some of the memories of my first acquaintance with him. It was not my good fortune to meet him frequently after that, but in the occasional brief contact with him which I did enjoy, those first impressions of his forceful personality and varied attainments and fruitful activities were deepened. The lives of very few ministers and educators of our time present so many points of varied

## INTRODUCTION

interest as his, and I congratulate the public on having the story of it told as it is here told by Dr. Jones. Notwithstanding the author's modest statement in the Foreword, the reader will find that the memoir is written not only with literary skill, but with that warmth of affection and fullness of sympathy which are indispensable to living biography. He writes, too, with a keen appreciation of those elements of strangeness and charm which we designate by the term romance, elements which are not ordinarily found in the lives of ministers and teachers as distinguished from men of action but which abounded in the life of Dr. Sampson. Born in a quiet Virginia village, brought up on a farm, educated at Hampden-Sidney, the University of Virginia, Edinburg, Leipsic and Beirut, sitting at the feet of such teachers as McGuffey, Davidson, Blackie, Delitzsch, Kurtz and Dabney, traveling all over western, central and southern Europe, Palestine, India, Ceylon, Japan, Korea and China, learning seven languages, speaking Greek like a native, associated with Schlieman, Rousopolos, Sterrett, Mahaffy, Goodwin and other archaeologists and scholars, laboring fourteen years as a missionary in Greece, then twenty-three years in America as an educator, building up the theological seminary at Austin, leading the educational forces of Texas, and finally losing his life amid the mountains of Colorado—it was a full, varied, far-reaching life, and Dr. Jones has rendered us all a valuable service by making this permanent record of it.

*Richmond, Va.*



# I

## BIRTH AND FAMILY TRADITIONS

The great river wide and deep as it flows strongly and steadily onward to the sea does not preserve the identity of the tributaries which have entered it along its course. Yet the great river receives its strength and the steadiness of its onward flow from many a brook and mountain stream and independent river which have gladly yielded their waters to the one great tide as it moves toward the sea.

It is even so with the wide and deeply flowing current of the world's life. The individual tributary is quickly absorbed and yet it is only by the merging of the waters of the spirit and life of individual men that the one great stream flows onward to its goal. To trace the course of one of these tributary streams is an excursion interesting not only in itself because of the things of value which may be discovered along its individual way, but chiefly because of the significance of its contribution to the wider and greater river of life. Such is the char-

acter of the life-stream of this man, flowing down from the distant hills of a noble ancestry. It is of interest not only to those who loved him and walked with him along its course, but it is significant because of the notable contribution which his labor and service made to the cause of God.

Thornton Rogers Sampson, a son of Francis S. Sampson, D. D., and Caroline Dudley, was born at Hampden Sidney, Prince Edward County, Virginia, October 9, 1852.

Careful investigation by members of the family has brought to light some interesting facts about its origin and history. The Sampsons lived first in France. The name is not from the Hebrew, but is derived from St. Sampson, a local name in Normandy. It is thought that the family followed William the Conqueror to England and the first who bore the name there was Ralph St. Sampson, the brother of Thomas, the first Norman Archbishop of York. Ralph St. Sampson's son Thomas (for the canons relating to the celibacy of the clergy were not then observed) became Archbishop of York as Thomas the II;





BIRTHPLACE AT HAMPDEN SIDNEY





and another son was Bishop of Bayeux in France. Bishop Sampson of York was noted for his learning and was a conspicuous member of a great clerical family. As to his literary culture and ability the chroniclers are unanimous. There were other bishops of the name, of Worcester and of Sussex. Indeed the Sampsons are referred to as the "Clerical Family," and we find references to them by Thomas Arnold of Oxford and Thomas Carlyle. The family Coat of Arms carries as its motto the noble sentiment, "*Pejus letho flagitium.*" Some members of the family settled in Scotland, some in Ireland, and it is presumed that all of the name in America have descended from the first of the name who went over into England from France. The name Richard has come down the long line and we read that a man bearing that name fled from England with John Knox and went to Switzerland, afterward making his way to Virginia.

These ancestral facts were gathered by the research of a member of the family only a few years ago. The subject of this sketch was very much interested in the result of these researches, and felt

that his family was still living up to its early traditions; his father, two uncles, several cousins and many relatives being ministers in the Presbyterian Church. However, with characteristic simplicity of spirit, he rarely spoke of these things except in jest, and yet he was proud of his gentle birth, and sought to impress his children with reverence for his father's character and learning and his mother's New England straightforward and honest way of looking at life. His mother's family came from New England and some of her ancestors served with distinction in the war of the American Revolution. Col. William Byrd, of Westover, Virginia, colonial agent in England and more than thirty years a member of, and finally president of the council for the colony, was an ancestor on his father's side.

Thornton Sampson's grandfather, Richard Sampson, owned an estate on the James River in Goochland County. He was not only a successful farmer, but a man of considerable influence among his neighbors, and a vigorous writer upon rural matters, these papers being published regularly in the state magazines. Appreciating the value of education, he



sent his son Francis first to a private school and later to the University of Virginia. It was in his student life that he was converted, became a member of the Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, and decided to study for the ministry. When the old farmer heard of it, he exclaimed, "Well, the Church may have gained a good preacher, but the devil has lost the best dancer in Virginia." Upon leaving the University, where he graduated with honor, Francis entered Union Theological Seminary and soon thereafter married Caroline Dudley of Richmond. A short time subsequently he became the teacher of Hebrew in Union Seminary and continued in this department with distinguished success as a scholar and teacher for the remaining sixteen years of his life. While a professor in Union Seminary Dr. Francis Sampson went to Europe for the further prosecution of his oriental studies and spent a year chiefly at the universities of Halle and Berlin, and in travel in other parts of the continent. It was while colleagues at the Seminary there was developed between him and the late Dr. R. L. Dabney a friendship so intimate and



beautiful that they were called "David and Jonathan." In an extended memoir of Dr. Francis Sampson published by Dr. Dabney under the instruction of the Board of Directors of the Seminary, high tribute is paid to his scholarly attainments and rare talent as a teacher. In speaking of his familiarity with various departments of learning which "would have abundantly equipped him for the highest post of instruction in America," Dr. Dabney further says, "His ripest acquirements were in the Hebrew literature and it may be safely asserted that as a *teacher* in Hebrew there was not his superior on our continent." It was the lament of his colleagues that he left so few published records of his work, but his zeal as a teacher left him scant opportunity for authorship and his early death in his thirty-ninth year cut off this hope.

## II

### EARLY YEARS AND STUDENT LIFE

Dr. Francis Sampson had a family of six children, of whom Thornton was the youngest, he being less than two years old when his father died. Mrs. Sampson continued to live at Hampden Sidney until her marriage to Dr. Francis B. Watkins in 1857. She then moved to Richmond and the Sampson children were taken to Dover to live with their grandfather, Mr. Richard Sampson. Here they had a tutor as was the custom in those days. The children from the near neighbors were collected and in one home was the school, and here Thornton Sampson laid the foundation of his education. He was reading Caesar at the age of twelve and in a letter written to his sister at that tender age he says, "Caesar is as hard as the mischief!" His progress in other studies must have been equally satisfactory as he was ready for college before he was sixteen.

In the meantime the desolation of the Civil War had come upon the South and the Sampsons like many others, lost

everything except the land. Thornton and his brothers worked very hard on the farm and in after years he would often say that while it was a great strain on him, mentally and physically, he believed the experience had made a man of him. There he learned by actual experience what it meant to work with his hands, and to sympathize with the young man who had to make his own way in the world. There was very little that he did not know about the practical side of life on a farm, and he loved every phase of it.

When he went to Hampden Sidney he had just passed his sixteenth birthday. He entered the sophomore class, doubled up with some of the work and graduated before he was nineteen. He was very quick to learn and had a retentive memory, but he did not write easily, being heavy and labored when he came to put his thought on paper. Those who knew his terse and lucid style later in life would never have suspected such difficulties at the beginning of his literary career. During his student days his college mates wondered how he got up his work, because he was such a "good fellow,"



always ready for any fun that was going on. He often told his students afterwards that he made it a rule to study hard while he was at it, and always to be in bed by half past ten at night. He was a vivacious and attractive youth, strong and athletic, and with an eye that was so quick and bright that the college boys called him "Birdeye." He had red hair which he hated, saying that any mischief which was done in the village was laid at the door of "that red-headed, freckle-faced Thornton Sampson!" He inherited the red hair from his father and with it the fair complexion which even in his later years gave him a youthfulness of appearance which was remarkable. While at college he joined the literary society and was made a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity, to which he gave his love and loyalty as long as he lived. He united with the Church while in college and decided almost immediately to study for the ministry. This was characteristic of him as he never went half way in anything, and from being a gay, careless boy he turned squarely about when conviction came to him. In following his career we find a rare persistence of de-

votion when once he had made up his mind, and he pursued his object steadily through good or evil report. He graduated from Hampden Sidney College in his nineteenth year, the third honor man of his class, and spent that summer visiting among his relations in Albemarle and Amherst. One of these was the widow of the Rev. Thornton Rogers, the uncle for whom he was named. He used to sing his college songs to this old "Aunt Peggie," and the room was always filled with the family, young and old, while the darkies gathered outside the door to hear Marse Thornton sing "Jim Crack Corn" and "The Blue Tail Fly." It was here that he first met his wife. She was a distant cousin, a school girl of fifteen, but he often said that he made up his mind then that he would marry her when he was settled and able to support a wife. In the autumn of that year he secured a position as a teacher in Bedford County, hoping in this way to save enough money to continue his studies in the University of Virginia. This he did do, with a small loan from a friend in Richmond, and he entered the University before he was twenty, specializing



in moral philosophy. He studied under Dr. McGuffey and counted it a great privilege as he was a most inspiring teacher. He also took Greek under Gildersleeve, whose genius not only quickened his students into an enthusiastic pursuit of knowledge but also made them love him whom they affectionately called "old Gillie."

Thornton Sampson graduated from the University, July 3, 1873, as first honor man and medalist. The next April he was sent to Europe by Mr. John Booker, the friend who gave him financial aid at the University. Mr. Booker's son had fallen ill from sunstroke in Vienna and Sampson went over to bring his friend home to America. This glimpse of the Old World opened the eyes of the young student to wider fields and stirred in his heart the ambition to prosecute his studies abroad. Some of his father's old friends urged Thornton to prepare himself for a professorship, even suggesting Union Seminary, where, if the Church needed him, he might one day serve in the place of his distinguished father. Very soon he decided to go back to Europe and he sailed in November,

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1874, for Scotland. Here he entered the New College, taking his first theological course. He spoke often of his professors there, making grateful mention of the inspiration and help which they gave him. While he took only the regular course, always he found a special fascination and felt a peculiar interest in the Greek. It was a great satisfaction and delight to him to be under Dr. Blackie, who always insisted that Greek and Latin were *living* and not *dead* languages. While a student here, he utilized all his holidays for tramping far and wide in the British Isles. He taught regularly on Sundays in the "Ragged Schools," founded by Dr. Thomas Guthrie. Having little money he was obliged to live most economically, but he enjoyed good health and nothing came to cloud the skies of his student life.

In June of 1875 he determined to go to Germany and he went to Leipzig where he studied Hebrew under Delitzsch and Kurtz. While he was in Leipzig he made his home with an old lady whom he called his "German Mother." She was an interesting woman, widely read herself and the intimate friend of many promin-

ent literary men and artists, among whom was Mozart. Subsequently there was a correspondence between the "German Mother" and the former student conducted always in German, and when she died she left him a diamond ring which had an interesting history. Sampson worked very hard in Leipzig, having the handicap of a language which he had not studied before, but whenever a holiday came he was off for the mountains. In the two years he spent in Germany he crossed all the great passes several times, going down into Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France and even Spain. He inherited a very decided talent for languages from his father and a musical ear from his mother, so that it was not difficult for him to learn Italian and French, and he spoke them, the later especially, with ease and elegance.

In 1877 he left Leipzig for the East and entered the American College at Beirut, Syria, with the special purpose of studying Arabic. While a student at Beirut, he traveled extensively in Palestine, visiting all the places of interest in the Holy Land. Much of this journeying was made in the company of the late Bishop Marvin and Bishop Hendrix of the Methodist Church.



### III

#### MISSIONARY CALL

When Thornton Sampson returned to America, he decided to visit Greece *en route*, little dreaming that the few days which he would spend there would alter the whole course of his life. He became so deeply interested in the work of the Southern Presbyterian Church in that small kingdom that he made up his mind to go home and finish his theological course, and offer himself as a foreign missionary to Greece. It is certain that this decision involved a deep and radical re-adjustment of his life-plans. All the dreams and ambitions of his youth for place and position in the Church were quickly abandoned. All the years of special and advanced study through which he passed in the hope that he might be qualified for such responsibility were seemingly to lack a logical culmination. In some hour of sudden vision the soul of the devout and now mature student must have seen the man of Macedonia and heard the plea as it was made to the great missionary apostle, "Come over

and help us." It was a quick shifting from academic walks and association with the cultured to do pioneer Gospel service in a foreign land, and to shape his thinking and teaching and preaching to the condition of the humble. What this evident crisis may have cost him in counting all things as loss that he might not be disobedient to the heavenly vision, we do not know. He never spoke of it save in the most enthusiastic way. This disposition was not all of grace, for it was natural for him to be cheerful and not to look back when once he saw the way of duty.

On his way back to America he visited Egypt, arriving at home in time to enter Union Seminary. In April, 1878, he was licensed at Hampden Sidney by the Presbytery of East Hanover. On the 30th of the same month he was married to Miss Ella Royster of Memphis, Tennessee, to whom he had been engaged since the previous year. A letter written from Hampden Sidney a short time before his marriage reveals the sparkle and fun of his nature and the spirit of boyish mischief which through all the years continued to animate and adorn his domestic love.



*My dear, dear Ella:*

In my last letter I promised to favor you with another in six months. Since I last wrote my life has been indeed eventful. I have made some twenty-seven trips to Tennessee. Been married as often as Solomon, seven hundred or more times. I have also visited Greece several times and spent some months with my friends in Virginia. I finished my Seminary course and stood all my examinations in April and was married the first time soon after. But it will never do to keep up this nonsense. I had a card from Blackwell yesterday. I wrote back at once a card with all sorts of nonsense on it which nobody could understand but himself. I asked him what should be done with a man six weeks before—. I thought he ought to be killed or as well might be for all the good to himself or anybody else. I feel as large as the little boy in the old reading book thought Alexander was. I will tell you some day all the nonsense I wrote Blackwell. Sallie was convulsed with laughter when I read her the card. You do not know what a scamp I am. Sallie says I ought to be whipped. She would not kiss me good night as she should do tonight, so I slapped her. She caught me in the corner and boxed me till my ears burned. I never felt so mischievous in my life. I feel like kissing every girl I meet on the street—I am not going to do it.

Do you believe sister Mary will agree with you in your extravagant and unwarranted opinion of me? No, she knows me too well for that. You are going to be the most disappointed woman in the whole United States. How on earth I ever managed to deceive you as you have been is a wonder to me. I will declare, however, that it was all unintentional and I can not feel criminal though I may be guilty. Ella, I do believe we will be as happy as ever people are allowed to be on earth. I do not see what is to hinder us from being, barring your being undeceived. We love God, we are interested in our work, and all our wants will be supplied. We will be separated from friends, but with books and each other we can be happy.

Do not bother yourself about too many fine clothes. How on earth will I get along with them? My little bag will not hold more than one petticoat and two pairs of stockings, and I will not be troubled with baggage which I cannot carry in my hand. Fore-warned we are fore-armed. Thank cousin F. for the paper he sent me. Love to all the family from your own,

T. R. S.

After spending three weeks in Memphis he took his bride to the meeting of the General Assembly in Knoxville. On the train going to the Assembly, his wife



introduced him to Bishop Green of the Diocese of Mississippi, and the two talked together for hours. When they parted the old Bishop said, "I want to give you my blessing, my son." So off came the young man's hat and there in the dusty train the aged bishop laid his trembling hands upon his head and prayed that God would bless his faithful soldier and servant to his life's end. Mr. Sampson was ordained at Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1878 by a commission appointed by the Presbytery of East Hanover. He read that day the 20th chapter of Acts, and preached from the 22nd, 23rd and 24th verses: "And now, behold, I go bound in the Spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God." This expression of the steadfastness of the apostle's purpose and his indifference to the personal consequences which

might be involved in finishing the work which the Lord gave him to do was in a singular way prophetic of the spirit of the young missionary who was that day set apart to the ministry of the Gospel.



## IV

### SETTLEMENT IN GREECE

On the 27th of August, 1878, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson sailed for Greece and arrived in Athens late in September. There he promptly secured a house, set up his few belongings and went to work immediately to study the modern Greek language. He did this in the systematic, painstaking way that was characteristic of him in everything that he did. He often said that after having spent so much time studying classical Greek, he found it necessary to try to forget it in order to learn the modern language. While the difference between the two was not so marked as that between Latin and Italian, yet there was a great variance in construction, and in addition to this it was necessary to learn an entirely new pronunciation. During this period of acquiring the language his daily schedule provided a variety of methods as seen by the following order. He would study privately in the early morning; then he would go to a school for small children, entering the first class so that he might

get the accent more perfectly. In the afternoon he went out among the people, making everybody who would, talk to him; and then the whole evening was given up to study. This was not work to him in the sense of being a task; he did it with the keenest zest, enjoying every moment. When he had been in Greece six months he made his first public address in the Greek at a prayer meeting, hesitating and imperfect, to be sure, but it was a beginning. Before he removed from Athens, where he labored seven years, a member of the Greek Parliament told him that he had never heard the language spoken so perfectly by any foreigner. When we bear in mind the many variations of the language which exist in the country today, the classical, the Greek of modern books, another of the newspapers, the colloquial Greek, and finally the speech of the common people which is full of Italian and French and Turkish words, it is evident that such commendation from so competent an authority was high praise of the missionary's proficiency. Mr. Sampson made it a rule to go often to the University, mingling with the students, meeting the



professors and becoming familiar with the air of Greek university life. There he found intense interest in all forms of learning. He made friends early with Prof. Rousoupoulos, the Royal Archaeologist, and during his residence in Athens continued to have the advantage of his wide information and access to his very choice collection of specimens of ancient art. Mr. Sampson also came into friendly association with Dr. Henry Schliemann, who had a lively interest in archaeological studies and had been very fortunate in finding many works of art on the site of ancient Troy. He married a Greek lady and their beautiful home was always open to Americans.

Soon after Mr. Sampson's arrival in Greece, the "American School of Archaeology" was founded, and it has always been a marvel to his friends how much time he was able to give to its researches. He took great interest in the young men who came to Athens to study in the School of Archaeology. Among these was a young Virginian, John Robert S. Sterrett. The fact that they had come from the same state naturally drew them together, and soon they found many



subjects of common interest. Mr. Sterrett was anxious to continue his studies, but with the proverbial impecuniosity of student life he did not have the necessary means. With the same generous spirit which characterized him to the end of his life, Mr. Sampson advanced to him a loan of all the money at his command, about \$1,500, and the young Virginia student was enabled to go to Germany to secure his Ph. D. In after years Dr. Sterrett taught in the University of Texas and later in the universities of the East. Dr. Sampson made pleasant remark over the fact that his own small fortune in the time of need had been the means of giving a very valuable man to high places.

Prof. W. W. Goodwin of Harvard spent a year of special study in Athens and finding in Mr. Sampson a kindred spirit and their association revealing so much of mutual interest, there was developed between them a warm and lasting friendship. There were no Americans resident in Athens, outside of the consulate, but all through the winter months there was a stream of students and travelers, and

these made the otherwise lonely life of the missionary very charming.

Mr. Sampson went often to the Boule or Parliament, and there he also made intimate friends. One of these, Mr. Rangave, the man who praised his accuracy and skill in the use of the Greek language, was exceedingly kind, giving him a key to the private entrance into the Royal Gardens which surrounded the palace. Another member of Parliament who visited Mr. Sampson in his home was Nicholas Stephanides, a nephew of Marco Bozzaris, a fine specimen of the Greeks of the mountains. He was tall and straight, and wore the *foustanellas*, or white full skirt, and embroidered Greek jacket with loose hanging sleeves over the flowing white shirt sleeves, which the gentlemen of the city had generally discarded for the fashions of France.

The missionary's work was naturally and prevailingly among the humbler classes, not exactly an ignorant people because all Greeks have some degree of education. But while Mr. Sampson did the work of two men in the mission he was always reaching out into the upper



strata with the purpose and hope of making his ministry of value in high places, and giving to the work of the Gospel a wider opportunity in the national life by means of a friendliness on the part of those in influential positions.

Very soon after reaching Athens he became deeply interested in the boundary lines which the great powers were laying down in the East and we find this entry in his diary:

“August 2nd—two days ago the Blue Book, Greece No. 1, 1879, came into my hands from Mr. Corbett (English Minister). In this book, marked enclosure on 220, is a letter which I wrote to Mr. Corbett in reference to schools in Greece. Copies of this letter were sent to all the Courts of Europe, accompanied by a letter from the Marquis of Salisbury. In this letter there is this welcome sentence, ‘In the judgment of Her Majesty’s Government it follows as a necessary consequence that any cession of territory that is made must be subject to the condition that the Greek Government shall bestow upon its new subjects in the ceded territory the same liberty in respect to the exterior practices of religion that is conferred upon them by the laws of the Ottoman Empire.’ This seems to point



towards religious freedom! May it, in God's providence, be made the means of securing it for all the Greeks. When I wrote the above letter to Ambassador Corbett, it never occurred to me that any such consequence was possible. From what small efforts great results sometimes flow! This is a great and bloodless victory. By a timely letter that liberty has been attained for the Greeks which other nations have bought dearly with their best blood."

Dr. Sampson kept a copy of The Blue Book for many years, having a just and natural pride in what God had permitted him to do in this matter.

## V

### MISSIONARY LABORS IN ATHENS

In some ways Evangelical work among the Greeks was easier than in other mission fields, but there were peculiar conditions which made the progress of the Gospel even more difficult than in pagan or barbarous lands. The people were more enlightened than in uncivilized or savage countries, but they were very superstitious, and while there was security for a man in the city, he often took his life in his hands when he went out into the villages. This element of danger was especially present in Macedonia where the mountains were full of brigands and outrages were very frequently committed.

As Mr. Sampson learned more of the Greek people, their customs and religious superstitions, he realized more fully the exceeding difficulty of missionary labor among them. The members of the Orthodox Church had given up nearly all the observances of their religion to the priests and to the women and children. The men were indifferent to the Church

and had little thought or care for distinctively religious interests. But the Greeks are deeply loyal to their country and feel great pride in its glorious history. They believe that her language and her religion are the two strongest bonds of unity which exist, and that upon their loyalty to these two largely depends the success of her political aspirations in the East.

“In worship and ritual the Eastern Church is much like the Roman Catholic, with the celebration of the sacrifice of the mass as its center, with an equal and even greater neglect of the sermon, and is addressed more to the senses and imagination than to the intellect and the heart. It is strongly Oriental, mystical, and excessively ritualistic. The worship of saints, relics, flat images, and the cross is carried even farther than in the Roman Church. The Greek monks as a rule are exceedingly ignorant and superstitious, and the same may be said of the clergy, many of whom are merely mechanical functionaries. Religious life is supposed to originate in baptismal regeneration, and to be nourished chiefly by the sacrament. Prayer, fasting, and



charitable deeds are the principal manifestations of piety. The Greeks are very religious in outward observances, but know little of what Protestants mean by experimental piety, and personal direct communion of the soul with the Saviour. The Greek Christians surpass their Mohammedan neighbors in chastity, but are behind them in honesty. What Paul says of the Cretians (Tit. 1:12) is still characteristic of the race, of course with honorable exceptions."

There is no popular consciousness of a vital and inseparable relation between religion and morality.

The priests in the Orthodox Church are often very ignorant, and the services being conducted in an unfamiliar tongue, the people cannot understand what they hear, nor the priests what they read. The people worship the pictures of the saints and the Virgin Mary, and often all they do at a religious service is to buy a candle, which they light before a sacred picture, bowing and crossing themselves. They fast scrupulously fifteen days at the feast of the Virgin in August, forty days at Christmas, and as many more before Easter. That they really fast is

certain; meat, butter, milk, and even bread sometimes being denied. On certain days they can eat olives; on others oil; but never both on the same day.

Priests and people are intensely bigoted and intolerant. They could see no need for evangelical preachers and teachers, and resented the suggestion that they, to whom the great Apostle Paul preached while England was worshipping in groves, should need to be told the truth.

Mr. Sampson often told them that enlightened as the people of England and America were, we dared not leave them seven days without telling them their duty to the God who made them, and to the Lord Jesus Christ who died to save them. One can readily understand how difficult was the work in the face of this invulnerable bigotry and superstition, and how much patience was required to do it.

The Orthodox Church accepted the Scriptures, but refused to allow them to be taught in the modern language. All the schools were required to have a priest to give the religious instruction. For a while the Southern Presbyterian Church had a very prosperous School for Girls



in Athens, the authorities not enforcing the law requiring the visiting priest. But just before Mr. Sampson reached Athens the Holy Synod had become more strict, and the school was closed because the missionaries could not allow the priests to teach. As soon as Mr. Sampson arrived he went to work to secure a change in the law about using the translation of the Bible. He went before the Holy Synod, to influential members of the Parliament, and even to the king himself. In all these interviews (not yet having acquired the Greek tongue) he was obliged to speak in French, except with King George, who spoke English in his family. He found the king, who was a Lutheran, full of interest and sympathy for this great work, but he could do very little beyond this to help it on. Mr. Sampson persevered, however, and in fourteen months after his arrival in Athens we read this in his diary:

“Last week we had a visit from Drs. Gilman and Bliss of the American Bible Society. They rejoiced with us in the fact that the Greek government had issued an order requiring the New Testament to be



read in the Public Schools. This is full of promise for Evangelical truth in the Kingdom. Hitherto, God's word has been bound, and was not brought before the minds and into the hands of the people, but now we may pray that the truth may 'have free course and be glorified'. If there is not a great work for our Church in the not very remote future, then my philosophy is at fault!"

It is indicative of the variety and scope of Mr. Sampson's activities to note that, in addition to his missionary cares, he was the agent for the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, positions which entailed an immense amount of work. Immediately after the governmental decree just now noted, the Bible Society sent out colporteurs, and thousands of copies of the New Testament translated into the modern Greek were placed in the schools and prisons all over the Kingdom. The people read them with keen relish, for the Greek mind of to-day is very like it was in Paul's time, forever seeking "either to tell or to hear some new thing." This quickened interest in the Bible aroused the authorities of the Orthodox Church, and from that time more attention was

given to the education of the priesthood.

About this time Mr. Sampson made the acquaintance of an old priest in Thessalonica whose son had become interested in Evangelical truth through reading a Bible which someone had loaned him. The old man was much grieved when his son, seventeen years of age and his only child, told him that he could no longer stay in the Orthodox Church, but must follow Christ as his awakened conscience dictated. The old priest first reasoned with his son; then he put the boy into the ground up to his knees in order to get out the "evil spirit," as he called it; and then he drove the boy out of his house and out of the town. The boy came to Athens, and with the help which the mission gave him, studied in the University and afterwards Dr. Sampson sent him to Scotland to study there, believing that a bright boy who had borne so much for his Master was well worth helping. It was a source of great pleasure and thankfulness that this young man became a preacher of the Gospel and returned to his old home. His father, known to all the Evangelicals in Greece, and through Mr. Sampson to



many people in America, left the Orthodox Church himself and showed by his godly walk and holy conversation that he was truly converted. His name was Moschou and he continued to be called "pappa" after he came out of the church which he had served as a priest. The Greeks despised him for leaving his church and even beat and stoned him, but his faith never wavered and as he was more persecuted, the more patient he became, and the more gentle and persuasive in leading men to Christ. The son, Xenophon Moschou, worked with Mr. Sampson after he moved to Thessalonica, and together they translated into modern Greek the "Book of Church Order," and a commentary on Hebrews written by Dr. Francis Sampson, of Union Theological Seminary, Virginia. Later Mr. Moschou took up the work among the Greeks in Smyrna.

Mr. Sampson visited all the islands about Greece, and at Syra he became well acquainted with the Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar, who regularly visited the English churches in the Mediterranean.

Bishop Sanford asked Mr. Sampson if he could arrange to come over to the





T. R. SAMPSON WHILE A STUDENT  
IN GERMANY



Island of Syra and read the service and preach to the colony of English people who at that time had no rector. This he did all the winter, making the visit once a month and preaching in the Episcopal Church at Syra. There was another phase of service which Mr. Sampson rendered with much interest and pleasure and which brought him into fellowship with men from his home land. Whenever the ships of the American navy came into the port of Athens he would preach for them on Sunday afternoons, and take the officers to see the sights during the week. In this way he made some warm friends among the officers and men of our navy.

While in Athens he made frequent trips to visit the outlying stations where small numbers of Evangelicals were banded together, to look into the work and to encourage the brethren. Someone has said that "where there are six Greeks there are seven captains," a somewhat exaggerated way of describing one of their most prominent characteristics. This was quite as true of the native Evangelicals. Because of this disposition there were many lively discus-



sions, not a little bickering, and, as often happens, the work was put back by contentions over very unimportant matters. Returning from Salonika, Mr. Sampson writes in his diary:

“Just returned from Salonika, worn in body and spirit after fighting for three weeks with the Greeks, but all goes well.”

He carried always a feeling of responsibility for the work and sometimes was sorely tried by these unnecessary disputes. Long arguments over non-essentials vexed and tried a man of his disposition. He saw quickly what he thought was right and it was not his nature to take indirect or devious paths. At times he was so straightforward and even blunt in stating his conclusions that he gave offence. Upon some occasions it took years to vindicate his position, and the waiting was not always easy, but he steadied himself by saying, “I just *know* I am right.” One who was near him for more than forty years believes that he never said a word that at the time he did not believe to be absolutely true. If a man ever failed to keep his word to

him, it was a serious if not fatal blow to his trust. He might again work with the man, but he was not quite able again to give his entire confidence. His temper was very quick, and this he grieved over more than anybody else, but no man could doubt his perfect sincerity. He was stern with himself, and on the spur of the moment he was sometimes harsh with others. But his nature was such that when given time he always leaned to the side of mercy. Being himself a man of quick temper and straightforward nature, it was inevitable that in his intercourse with a people very flexible in their ideas of truth there would be times when he must fight and suffer, but he stuck to it, and there were times, as in all missionary effort, of quiet satisfaction and progress.

## VI

### SERVICE IN SALONIKA

After seven years in Athens, Mr. Sampson moved his family to Salonika to supervise the work there. This was made necessary by the removal of the Rev. Mr. Phipps, who had returned to America. The Mission in Salonika had a very good house and built near, or as a part of it, was the room which was used as a chapel. Salonika is a prosperous town of about 150,000 population of Greeks, Bulgarians, Jews and Turks, and from the beginning the work in this place was very encouraging. Situated on the beautiful bay of the same name, it was a very attractive place, and Mr. Sampson found unending delight in the bay, and the fine view of snow-capped Olympus just across the water. Following his practice in Athens, he made as many friends as he could among influential people. He went to see the Pasha who governed that province, made a friend of him, and was able in consequence to ask for assistance, if any ques-



tions arose which required settlement by the Turkish government. The friendship of Sir John Blunt, the British Consul General, proved a source of great help and comfort. At that time the very word English was a talisman in Turkey. The Americans also were very popular with all these Orientals, perhaps due in some measure to the fact that they were supposed to have no political aspirations in the East. The American Consul was a Greek and had been more than twenty years in the service and was much liked by all the people. His name was Pericles Hadji Lazzaro. He and his family were Orthodox, and his grandfather got the name "Hadji," which means holy, because he had made the pilgrimage on foot and part of the way even on his knees to the Holy Sepulchre. The Lazzaros were a wealthy and influential family, but the Consul and his wife, his mother and brothers, thought they had nothing too good for the humble missionary. In later years they never forgot to send a greeting to Mr. Sampson and his family, indicating how genuine had been their interest and friendship. About this time Dr. J. P. Mahaffy, a clergyman and pro-

fessor in Trinity College, Dublin, accompanied by his son, visited Mr. Sampson and they three went to Mount Athos together. Dr. Mahaffy was the leader of the finest choir in Europe. He had a wonderful gift for taking down the notes of birds and then whistling them. He took the Muezzin's call to prayer in this way. In the little mission chapel he sang "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know," in modern Greek with great spirit. Considered the finest Greek scholar in Europe, he was as unaffected as a boy. Across the long lapse of years we can hear the echo of the mutual esteem and friendship which grew and ripened between these two men from this transient association in the East. We take the liberty of quoting a letter written from Dublin by Dr. Mahaffy to Mrs. Sampson:

Provosts House,  
*November 22, 1915.*

*Dear Madam:*

It is only through the kindness of Lord Guthrie that I have learned, so long and late after it happened, how your most valued husband has been taken from you, by the will of God. If ever there was a

man who deserved that the horses and chariot of fire should carry him aloft as it did Elijah, it was your brave, broad-minded, brilliant husband.

It is now many years since he accompanied me and my son to Mount Athos and in a sudden storm probably saved all our lives by his coolness and skill in controlling both our boat and its crew. Since then I have often regretted that he did not come to see me here.

But to have met him and to have associated with him familiarly even for ten days in a whole life is a privilege which I shall value all the rest of my days.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours respectfully,

J. P. MAHAFFY.

The English fleet came often to Salonika, and once the missionaries were invited to a reception at the British Consulate, given in honor of the Duke of Edinburg. The present king of England was with his uncle, and the company little dreamed that he would so soon sit upon the throne. The sailors frequently came in companies to the Mission and often Mr. Sampson would translate a few inspiring words of some young man to the Greeks. It seemed strange to them that a man, young and full of the



joy of life, his breast often covered with medals won for personal bravery, should find time to be interested in the souls of men and willing to testify to the joy of possessing the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Mr. Sampson was very happy in his work at Salonika. There was better support and more sympathy than in a city like Athens. The people of Macedonia seemed to be more ready for the Gospel, they were more serious, and the country folk were especially eager for the Glad Tidings. Another delightful feature of the work here was the larger possibility of Christian fellowship. The lack of this inspiration and the mutual encouragment of kindred souls is the great trial of the Gospel herald in strange lands. But here this loneliness was, in a measure, removed, because all to the north were the missionaries laboring with the Bulgarians, and Constantinople was nearer with its splendid band of men and women sent out by the American Board of Foreign Missions. Mr. Sampson often said that he was a gregarious animal and needed the help of numbers. He conferred often with these mis-

sionaries, and nearly every summer took his family to Constantinople to stay a few weeks in the home of some one of this hospitable and noble band.

In 1890 our Executive Committee of Foreign Missions sent out Rev. A. P. Saunders to work with Mr. Sampson in Salonika, but in a few months it became evident that he would not be able to stand the climate. His health became seriously and permanently impaired and he returned to America. While in Salonika, Mr. Saunders suffered a severe attack of smallpox, through which Mr. Sampson nursed him, but escaped the disease himself.

The sending out of another helper was considered, but just then the interest in the mission in Japan seemed to demand all the available resources of the missionary treasury, and Mr. Sampson was left alone once more. He felt that he could not bear the burden alone, and as the native churches had developed and were in good working condition, he decided to return to America himself, having given fourteen years of his life to missionary labor among the Greeks.

## VII

### RETURN TO AMERICA

Leaving Salonika, Mr. Sampson took his wife and four children to Geneva, Switzerland. There he rented an apartment and got his family comfortably settled, when he himself started for the Far East with the purpose of visiting the important mission stations in India, Ceylon, Japan, Korea and China. The motive which induced him to make this itinerary was the desire to learn as much as he could about the real status and needs of the missionary work in these fields in order that he might be the better able to inform the churches in America and to arouse among them a deeper interest in Foreign Missions. He sailed from Naples in the spring of 1892 and returned to the same port about five months later. Mr. Sampson found much of interest and enjoyment upon this tour, the beauties of the architecture of India especially appealing to him. His reading was very wide and he was prepared to see and appreciate with the keenest zest



the notable things and places of which he had read. Plain and simple though he was in his speech, and frugal in his habits and manner of life because of the smallness of his means, yet nothing seemed to cloud his poetic appreciation of the beautiful, or repress the deep delight which he found in nature and the highest art.

On the way out to the Orient he traveled for ten days with Sir Thomas Lipton, that rare philanthropist and good, true sportsman. He would often speak of their long talks together, and how Sir Thomas would tell of the hardships and privations of his early days, how he worked with pick and shovel on a railroad near Petersburg, Virginia, during the Civil War; and finally how he came to buy coffee and tea plantations in Ceylon which made him a multimillionaire. In relating this story, as he often did to students who were slack in their diligence, Mr. Sampson would end it by repeating what Sir Thomas said to the poor student who had worked his way through college and seminary—"And, Sampson, I would give ten years

of my life to know as much as you do, and to have had your advantages."

When Mr. Sampson reached Switzerland he decided to leave his family in Germany for the winter and return alone to America. The children had been in school in Geneva for two years and had become proficient in the French tongue, and now it was his desire to have them learn to speak German also. But upon reaching Hanover he learned that cholera had broken out in Hamburg and so he felt obliged to change his plans. They remained in Hanover only a week, going immediately to London. In one of the rare entries in his diary he writes at this time:

"Went to hear a son of Spurgeon preach in the morning, then to hear Canon Duckworth at Westminster in the afternoon, and to 'St. Martin's in the Fields' in the evening, three good sermons, but how different, the plow horse, the Arab steed and the steady going coach horse."

The family sailed from Liverpool having very little money and no settled plans for the future. Mr. Sampson often spoke of that trip and its ending when he needed

to rebuke a want of faith, for when the steamer reached the docks in New York there was a telegram inviting the whole family of six, besides the faithful Armenian servant, who refused to be left behind in Turkey, to the beautiful country home of an uncle near Baltimore. Here they stayed four months, and in the meantime Mr. Sampson was engaged for special work in North Carolina. He accepted a call to be Foreign Mission Secretary for the Synod of North Carolina. In this work he traveled all over the State, preaching in the churches on Foreign Missions. His intimate knowledge of missions and his own wide personal experience well qualified him for this task. He had some very strong and instructive missionary addresses, especially one on the "Women of the East." He had in this special work also the large asset of his own zeal and love for the mission cause. Under the inspiration of this State-wide activity, interest among the churches was greatly quickened and deepened and the support of missions throughout the Synod was splendidly increased. While engaged in these labors, which continued for a period of two years,



Mr. Sampson made his home in Asheville. As a side light upon this special service, and also bearing upon the character and quality of the man, we quote from a letter written by Rev. R. F. Campbell, D. D., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Asheville:

“I knew Dr. Sampson very well and was always impressed by his cheerfulness, courage, and virility. When I was pastor at Davidson College, he got up from a bed of illness to make an address on Foreign Missions, according to an agreement made before he was taken sick. In the midst of the address he fainted and fell. When he came to he was as full of sunshine as he would have been at a picnic, and if the physician had consented, would have proceeded with his address. He was a man of deep piety, but as free from the conventionalities of *piosity* as any one I ever knew. He sometimes shocked the staid and stolid by his bubbling humor, but no one who knew him could doubt his consecration to the Master and His work.”

## VIII

### LABORS AT FREDERICKSBURG AND SHERMAN

After two years of this special inspirational service for the cause of Foreign Missions in the Synod of North Carolina and while prosecuting the work with vigor and success, Mr. Sampson was called to the presidency of Fredericksburg College. The motive behind this particular work of the Church associated with the Assembly's Home and School was one of peculiar merit. A suitable provision for the education of the children of missionaries who were stationed at the outposts of the Kingdom in foreign lands, and the care and training of the orphans left by deceased ministers and missionaries created a peculiar charge upon the care and support of the Church. It would bring comfort and confidence to missionaries living in the heathen environments abroad if there were in the home land a place for their children where they might have the influence of a Christian home and associations, and also adequate educational opportunities.

Especially was there comfort in the assurance that if the fathers and mothers should die in the harness, their children would be cared for by such an institution of the Church.

Mr. Sampson accepted the call to this work and moved to Fredericksburg and remained there nearly three years. The school had about 175 students and this number was increased later as high as 213. These years of service were filled with anxiety as well as hard work. In addition to the manifold labors which were connected with the normal work of the college, he was burdened with the problem of serious debt which was upon the institution. He had a horror of debt that almost amounted to obsession, but he was always proud to say that he left the College free of debt. It was while engaged in this work at Fredericksburg that Mr. Sampson received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Davidson College. Subsequently in 1907 the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the same institution. To indicate the character of the labors and cares and successes of this period of his ministry, we take the liberty of quoting



from a letter of Mr. S. W. Somerville, of Rapidan, Virginia, who writes with intimate personal knowledge of these things.

“Dr. Sampson came to Fredericksburg in 1894, having been elected president of Fredericksburg College in connection with the Assembly’s Home and School, and served in this capacity till 1896. These were trying years for him, for the institution was then in its incipiency, was burdened with debt, without endowment, and dependent upon the voluntary gifts of God’s people, and was facing many difficulties. The education of the children of our deceased ministers and of our missionaries appealed strongly to him and he threw his whole soul into the work. Grappling with difficulties and problems, he labored earnestly and faithfully and that too at great financial sacrifice, for his salary was of necessity small and often delayed.

Of all the service he rendered to the Church (and great indeed was his service), I doubt if any was greater than that which he rendered during these years. Few men were better equipped for teaching than he. He spoke fluently seven languages and his knowledge extended to all the departments of learning. The students never grew weary in his class room. Eternity alone will reveal his influence over their lives and characters. His memory is dear to all who knew him in Fredericksburg. He preached

often during these years, sometimes for absent pastors and more often supplying vacant pulpits."

The characteristic of Dr. Sampson's life to labor in widely separated parts of the world was again illustrated in the call which now came to him to take the presidency of Austin College at Sherman, Texas. He accepted the call and moved to Texas in 1896. The pressure of the anxieties and cares which had been upon him and his excessive labors had made their mark upon his soul in the sober and chastened attitude which he seemed to feel toward life and his own service. In the little family record we find this brief entry at this time:

"This has, in many ways, been a year of trial and many failures, but the goodness of God has been as clear as the day all through!"

In this spirit, grave and humble, and yet full of faith, he entered upon his duties in Texas. He found all the conditions new in that new country. The work was very difficult and full of perplexing questions, but he put his whole strength

into it, and he had many proofs of the divine blessing upon the faithfulness of his stewardship. His administration in the college, though brief, gave a new impetus to the life and work of the institution in many ways, leading to an improvement in its financial condition and giving a higher standard to its curriculum. It is of special interest to quote the impressions of one who was a student in the college at the time of Dr. Sampson's coming, and to indicate the appraisal which he makes of the significance of his influence upon the institution. Jim L. McCall, an alumnus of the college and a prominent attorney of Texas, writes of Dr. Sampson's labors in those days:

"Immediately upon his assuming the presidency of the College, Dr. Sampson in his public address at chapel services began to instill into the student body the idea that in a sense we were men, and were supposed to conduct ourselves as such; that he purposed personally to consider every man present as such; that by bearing this in mind and so conducting ourselves the '*esprit de corps*' of the College would certainly be improved, to the advantage of the institution and to the profit of the student.



He impressed upon us publicly in his talks and privately in his association with the fellows, that education was to be gained not only by being a book worm, that is to say, by merely getting lessons in a text book; but he emphasized the fact that every boy should take an active part as far as possible in all the life and affairs of the College. He believed in the value of the literary societies and encouraged every boy to take an active part in their work. He emphasized the importance of the work of the College Y. M. C. A., and advised all the students to become members of it.

Every one who knew Dr. Sampson understood the value which he placed upon college athletics. He was an ardent advocate of 'a sane mind and a sound body' and he believed all kinds of proper athletics contributed to that end. From the beginning of his connection with the College we can date the beginning of its real athletics. I think it was during the first year of his administration that the only gymnasium the College had ever had was started. The old chapel which was a room 40 by 75 feet with a 25 foot ceiling, was modified and used for this purpose. It was during this time that the first athletic director was procured for the College, who had charge of the gymnasium as well as all outdoor sports. Every student who was not a member of the foot ball or base ball teams had to work some each day in the gymnasium. Thus it

was with his coming that the reputation of Austin College for good clean athletics began to be known in Texas and Arkansas and Oklahoma, until today among all the schools of her class in this part of the country she stands well up in the list.

Because of Dr. Sampson's extensive travels in all parts of the world, and his personal knowledge of the life and customs of the people of the Orient, he was able in his teaching, especially in the Bible Course, to present the subject in a very instructive and interesting way. With Dr. Sampson's coming a new era in the history and progress of the school began; it has developed and continued to grow until it is known all over Texas, and among those who are able to pass judgment, it stands as one of the foremost in the State. In bringing all this about, I consider that Dr. Sampson is entitled to as large credit and praise as any man."

## IX

### AUSTIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

There had been for a long time a conviction in the Church in the Southwest that the need for a Theological Seminary was not only real, but imperative, if the developing but difficult and destitute fields upon the frontier were to secure an adequate supply of ministers. As early as 1884 an informal conference of many of the ministers of Central Texas Presbytery presented to Dr. R. K. Smoot, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Austin, a request that he should take charge of and direct the studies of as many of the candidates for the gospel ministry as should desire to place themselves under his instruction. Dr. R. L. Dabney, at that time a professor in the University of Texas at Austin, to whom the substance of this action had been communicated and whose co-operation had been sought, gave it his hearty approval and took part in the work from the opening of the school in October, 1884. This enterprise received



the endorsement of the Synod of Texas at its meeting that autumn and was known as "The Austin School of Theology." Other men were afterward associated with Drs. Smoot and Dabney in the work of the school and it was successfully maintained for eleven years, during which time some thirty students passed through the institution. In 1895 it became necessary to suspend the work because of the blindness of Dr. Dabney and his consequent removal from Austin, the impossibility of the work being carried on by Dr. Smoot alone, and the lack of sufficient endowment to secure the services of additional teachers. The library which had been collected by the Austin School of Theology was, however, kept together, and the funds on hand were safely and profitably invested by Dr. Smoot.

The suspension of the school was a keen disappointment to many and the conviction that the Church in the Southwest must have its own Theological Seminary persisted. In 1898 the Synod of Texas declared its purpose to proceed with as little delay as possible to establish a Theological Seminary, and a special

committee was appointed for that purpose, with full power to select a suitable location. The city of Austin was selected through the acceptance of an offer made by the trustees of the Austin School of Theology, who were enabled to make the offer through the generous liberality of the heirs of Mrs. R. K. Red, in connection with the assets of the Austin School of Theology. The Synod declared that the legal title of the institution should be "The Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary." A Board of Trustees was elected by the Synod in 1899 and granted all powers necessary to open the Seminary when they should have a minimum of \$100,000 in hand.

In May, 1900, the Board of Trustees in a session at Dallas elected Dr. Sampson to the presidency of the Seminary, and he signified his purpose to accept. He was sent to New York that spring, under appointment of the General Assembly, as the representative of the Synod of Texas to the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions which was assembled from all the Protestant missionary forces of the world.

On June 10th Dr. Sampson entered



upon his work for the Seminary as its first president. The property which was accepted by the Synod in its decision to locate the Seminary at Austin was the school building and grounds, which had formerly been used by "Stuart Seminary," situated in the eastern part of the city. This property furnished available equipment for dormitory and classrooms, but there were no students, no teachers, no endowment with which to secure them, and no funds to provide for any contingent expenses. The money with which to pay the salary of the new president and meet the traveling expenses incurred in his work was dependent upon his own efforts. For practical purposes the Seminary as yet was hardly more than a name and a desire. The president was given a free hand and the liberty to blaze his own way, but the Board was able to furnish him with little more than its sincere good wishes and its abiding conviction that a Seminary ought to be. Those were days of alternating hope and disappointment as the president went hither and thither among the churches in quest of funds for the Seminary, but his faith did not falter



and his courage triumphed over every disappointment. The Seminary being entirely without money resources, it was necessary for this canvass to secure subscriptions of two kinds. Donations and notes were solicited to meet the current needs, the care and protection and repair of the property, the payment of the salary of the president, and all the contingent expenses incurred in prosecuting the work. Endowment notes and donations were also solicited, these to be gathered and accumulated until such time as their total would make possible the opening of the Seminary under the requirements of the Synod. This was the difficult and laborious task of the president for two years.

During this time, Dr. Sampson became interested in the affairs of Daniel Baker College, and it was by his inspiration and active effort that this institution was brought under the control and into the possession of the Synod. He also became actively interested in Durant College of Oklahoma, and his services were of great and timely value there. This collateral activity of Dr. Sampson in the interest of other Church Schools was not

fortuitous. It was his deep and abiding conviction that there is a vital unity which binds together all the schools of the Synod, that they are mutually dependent even though separated in their management and fields of service, and that the prosperity or distress of one must vitally affect the welfare of all. For this reason, though his responsibility was primarily to the Seminary, his interest and active help were freely given as there was need or opportunity to all the schools of the Synod.

In April, 1902, announcement was made to the Church that the condition imposed by the Synod had been met, namely, that the Seminary could be opened when \$100,000 had been secured, and steps were taken to open the institution in October of that year. As the fruit of Dr. Sampson's labors, the funds of the Seminary were now well above this mark, showing \$17,000 for the Scholarship Fund, \$25,000 for the general needs of the Seminary, and \$75,000 for the endowment of two professorships. In addition to smaller donations received by the president here and there in the State, this splendid result was made



possible by the generous liberality of Mrs. Sarah C. Ball, who gave \$75,000 for the endowment of two Chairs, and \$12,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Dr. Sampson was not only deeply gratified because this notable gift made possible immediately the fruition of the dream of opening the Seminary, but there remained with him through all the years a lively impression of the faith and consecration of this godly woman, and he cherished a feeling of personal regard and gratitude for her name and memory because of this splendid gift to the cause of Christ.

The Board of Trustees at this time adopted the following paper expressing its appreciation of Dr. Sampson's efficient service:

"The Board of Trustees of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary desires to express to Dr. T. R. Sampson its very high appreciation of his diligent, wise, and successful efforts in securing the funds necessary to open the Seminary this next Fall and assure its permanent success."

In October, 1902, the Seminary was opened, with the Rev. Samuel A. King,



D. D., as Professor of Systematic Theology, and the Rev. Robert E. Vinson, B. D., as Professor of Old Testament Languages and Exegesis. Six students were enrolled, five from Texas and one from Arkansas, only first year men being admitted.

From April 23, 1901, Dr. Sampson had been treasurer of the Board, which office he now resigned, and J. W. Riddell, of Galveston, was elected treasurer. With the Seminary a going concern, the labors of Dr. Sampson became more complex. To the administrative cares of the institution, including the labors of intendant and the supervision of the boarding department and the securing of funds to provide for the maintenance expense, were added the responsibility of increasing the permanent endowment funds and securing a more adequate physical equipment for the Seminary. Dr. Sampson also deeply felt the necessity of keeping in touch with the student bodies of the Colleges, to lay before them the claims of the Gospel ministry, and to develop an interest in the Seminary among those who were candidates for the ministry, looking to their matriculation at Austin.

Through the activity of Dr. Sampson at this time the Seminary acquired possession of two residential properties in the vicinity of the Seminary to serve as homes for the professors.

In spite of many difficulties and problems which constantly attended the work, it made progress and the courage and hope of Dr. Sampson were an abiding asset of the institution.

In 1903 the Rev. R. K. Smoot, D. D., was elected to the Chair of Church History and Polity. There being insufficient endowment for the maintenance of this Chair, Dr. Smoot, while serving in the Seminary, was permitted to continue his pastorate in Austin until such time as the endowment of the Chair should be completed.

## X

### THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENCY

The complex responsibilities and frequent travel incident to his labors made a heavy demand upon Dr. Sampson's strength, and in the winter of 1904-1905 his health became seriously impaired, and it was necessary for him to seek relief. To the Board of Trustees he addressed the following letter:

Austin, Texas,  
*December 9, 1904.*

To the Board of Trustees of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

*Dear Brethren:*

For several months each year for the past three years, I have been unable to work at all on account of my health. A few months rest, however, in the summer has restored me hitherto to such a condition as to be able to prosecute my work with some comfort during the Winter and Spring.

This has not been the case this year, and now I find myself, at the beginning of Winter, in such a physical condition that my physicians urge me to lay down a part, if not all of my work, which requires me to travel so much, for a time, and to lead a



more regular and more quiet life. In view of these facts I feel obliged to place my resignation, as President of the Seminary, in your hands, to take effect on June 30, 1905, when I shall have completed five years of service to the Institution.

Regretting the conditions which seem to make this step necessary, thanking the members of the Board for their uniform and unfailing kindness and consideration of me, and with an earnest prayer for the continual blessing of God upon the Seminary,

I am, yours in one hope and work,

T. R. SAMPSON.

P. S.—I enclose a copy of the physician's letter which as you see leaves me no other course.

Accompanying this resignation of the presidency, Dr. Sampson submitted the following letter from his physician:

Austin, Texas,  
*December 20, 1904.*

*My dear Dr. Sampson:*

After carefully considering your case, I feel that a question of health must be handled conservatively as well as frankly, and in so doing I must adhere to what I stated to you, months ago; that absolute rest and quietude is most essential in your case.

It pains me to state, your condition resolves itself into—either your willingly re-

leasing your duties temporarily or later being torn from them indefinitely, by a nervous breakdown; which as you may well appreciate is not at all free from serious complications.

Wishing you to the fullest what you now most desire, health,

I am yours truly,

H. B. GRANBERRY.

P. S.—What you need is not medicine but regularity in habit, simplicity in diet, and sleep.

These letters came before the Executive Committee of the Board in session at Fort Worth, January 18, 1905. The Executive Committee decided not to take action upon the resignation, but to refer it to the annual meeting of the Board in May following. Pending such action by the Board, the Executive Committee tentatively released Dr. Sampson from the responsibilities of the presidency, and in view of the vacancy in the faculty caused by the death of Dr. Smoot, January 10, 1905, assigned the duties of the Chair of Church History and Polity to Dr. Sampson until the regular meeting of the Board in May. This relief from administrative labors and the regularity in hours of sleeping and care in

diet made possible by living at home, averted the threatened complete breakdown in Dr. Sampson's health and during the remainder of the Seminary year he was able to care for the teaching in the department of Church History with regularity and success. At the meeting of the Board in May the resignation of the presidency was accepted and a committee, which was appointed to bring in a paper touching the same, submitted the following report:

“Your Committee appointed to make a report upon the resignation of Dr. T. R. Sampson as President of the Seminary begs leave to report that the Board of Trustees in accepting said resignation, offered on account of the condition of Dr. Sampson's health, which made it impossible for him to further discharge the duties of said position, desires to record its deep sense of obligation to Dr. Sampson for the very efficient services he has rendered for the past five years, and expresses the hope that he will soon be restored to his wonted health and strength and be spared many years to render other services to the Church.

JAMES O. REAVIS,  
WM. HAYNE LEAVELL,  
J. A. AUSTIN.





MRS. T. R. SAMPSON BEFORE HER  
MARRIAGE



As an indication of the vital touch which Dr. Sampson had with the student body of the Seminary and the high degree of appreciation which they entertained for him and his labors, the following paper was presented to the Board at this meeting and was spread upon its minutes:

“To the Board of Trustees of Austin Theological Seminary:

We, the understand students of the aforesaid institution, wish to take this opportunity of expressing publicly our appreciation and gratitude for the work done by Dr. T. R. Sampson for the cause of ministerial education.

His work as President of this institution speaks for itself. Assuming charge of the work in 1900, when the Seminary was to all appearances a far distant possibility, we realize the herculean efforts he must have put forth in order to have raised, in the short space of two years, a sufficient endowment to enable the school to open its doors and invite students to its classes.

The continued growth of the Seminary has been very gratifying to us, and we wish to commend Dr. Sampson for his untiring zeal and energy which have done so much to promote this state of things, and to provide such comfortable and even elegant accommodations for the students.

In his capacity as instructor, he has been



no less successful. We are pleased that the Executive Committee of the Board granted the request of the Students made last Winter, in putting Dr. Sampson in the place made vacant by the death of the lamented Dr. Smoot. The work of Dr. Sampson in this connection also has been in the highest degree satisfactory. The earnest, faithful manner in which he has discharged his duty has shown him to be not only an accomplished scholar, but a skillful instructor.

We wish therefore, to express our high appreciation of and entire satisfaction with, the result of his labor, and our gratitude for all he has done in this great work."

Pending the finishing of the endowment of the Chair of Church History and the complete re-establishment of Dr. Sampson's health, he was at this meeting appointed by the Board to serve for the next year in this professorship.

With returning health and vigor, the zeal of Dr. Sampson for the Seminary began to reach out beyond his duties in teaching. Through his special activity a donation of \$15,000 to complete the endowment of the Chair of Church History was reported at the next meeting of the Board in May, 1906. This

splendid gift was made by Mrs. H. J. Lutchter, of Orange, Texas, and this professorship was permanently designated by the Board as "The Henry Jacob Lutchter Chair of Church History and Polity," and Dr. Sampson was elected to this professorship, which position he held until the time of his death. Dr. Sampson was formally installed in this professorship on May 8, 1907, Dr. Thornton Whaling delivering the charge by appointment of the Board.

## XI

### CHANGE OF LOCATION TO "SEMINARY HILL"

One consideration in the selection of the city of Austin as the home of the Seminary was the possible relation of the institution to the University of Texas. It was desired that the students of the Seminary might be able to avail themselves of the opportunity for special and advanced study in the University, and that the Seminary might also serve such students of the University as might desire to pursue special courses to be conducted by the members of the Seminary faculty. It was found practically impossible to realize this hope because the Seminary, though in the same city, was in a section far removed from the University. The feeling that the Seminary must seek a new site nearer to the University, and that it must also have a modern and more adequate physical equipment grew from year to year. It was Dr. Sampson's conviction that this change was imperative, and the records of the Board show that in 1906 he pre-



sented certain papers relating to this matter. Quietly but actively steps were taken to find and make possible the acquisition of a new site. With the help of friends in Austin, notable among whom was the late Rev. Josephus Johnson, D. D., the preliminary arrangements were made. The matter culminated in a definite proposition which was made to a called meeting of the Board in March, 1907. This offer set forth the proposal of the people of Austin to increase their donation to the Seminary to the sum of \$15,000 upon condition that the Seminary be removed to a location nearer the University and be made permanent. The Board was also advised that certain friends of the Seminary had secured a suitable property near the University and that they would give the Seminary an option upon this property at the same price which it had cost them. After inspecting the proposed site, the Board by an unanimous vote took the following action:

1. To accept the proposal which had been made by the people of Austin and to change the location of the Seminary, and that the Seminary "be definitely

and permanently located in the city of Austin."

2. To acquire the acreage which was offered on Twenty-seventh Street, north of the University.

3. To offer for sale all the property holdings of the Seminary in East Austin.

At this meeting the Board also directed that plans for a new Seminary building should be prepared and that bids upon the same should be secured, all to be submitted to the Board at its annual meeting in May following.

In all these things Dr. Sampson had a very active part. The working out with the architect of the plans for the new building, the securing of bids from the contractors, caring for the Austin subscriptions and their collection and serving as chairman of the Finance Committee, brought to him much labor and responsibility. At this meeting of the Board all the property holdings of the Seminary, consisting chiefly of "Stuart Hall," the old Seminary building, and the two houses which had been used as homes for the professors and were known as "Bonny Castle" and the "Bungalow," were placed in the hands of Dr. Samp-



son and he was authorized to sell them. The plans which had been prepared for the new Seminary building were accepted by the Board and the contract was made for its erection.

At this meeting of the Board Dr. Sampson reported a bequest which had been left to the Seminary by the late Governor Lubbock. Though the bequest was not in itself adequate to cover the cost, yet it was the desire and recommendation of Dr. Sampson that it be used for the erection of a dining hall which would be a memorial to Governor Lubbock and be known as "Lubbock Hall." This action was taken by the Board and a building committee was appointed, of which Dr. Sampson was the chairman, and by other contributions which he secured the memorial building was erected.

This was a trying year in the history of the institution, its normal activities being very much complicated by the confusion incident to the change of location. The necessity of securing temporary quarters, the increased expense of maintenance, the task of gathering funds for the new buildings which were under



way, and the details of supervising this work of construction made the year very difficult and laborious. But, as reported by Dr. Sampson to the Board in May, 1908, the Seminary came through, occupying the new premises for the first time on March 13th, and it was also reported that Lubbock Hall was near completion.

In the summer of 1907 Dr. Sampson made another trip abroad in company with Lutch Stark. This tour was made in fulfilment of the promise previously given to the family that when the time came for the young man to go abroad, Dr. Sampson would "show him Europe." They traveled extensively in Italy, Switzerland, France and other countries on the continent, and also in the British Isles. This outing abroad afforded much needed rest and relaxation to Dr. Sampson and served to invigorate him for the strenuous time ahead that autumn and winter in supervising the building operations of the Seminary.

At the meeting of the Board in 1908 it was reported "that a basis had been settled upon between the faculties of the Seminary and the University as to credits to be allowed the students of the Semi-

nary toward the degree of M. A. in the University." The establishment of a co-operative relation with the University in as large a degree as practicable had been one of Dr. Sampson's dreams. This purpose was even wider in its scope than the single point of contact between these two institutions. Primarily, he deemed it a special feature of attractiveness in the Seminary at Austin to afford to the candidates for the ministry an opportunity to bring up any academic attainments in which they were lacking, and to make it possible for Seminary students to do advanced work for the M. A. degree through this relation to the University. It was also his deep desire that the proximity of the Seminary might be of value to the University, not only in offering courses of study conducted by the Seminary for University students and for which they might receive credit toward their academic degree, but also in helping to quicken the spiritual and moral tone of the University. There had not always been in the past a sympathetic and helpful relation between the Church Schools and State Institutions. It was Dr. Samp-



son's conviction, we might almost say one of his hobbies, that the educational interests of the people could be promoted to the highest advantage only by finding a basis of mutual understanding and by fostering a sympathetic and co-operative spirit between the Church and State schools. This did not mean that he was lacking in loyalty to distinctively Christian education as represented by the denominational institutions. No man had a clearer perspective of the value of Christian colleges conducted by the Church, or a more sincere zeal for their maintenance. But he recognized the fact that thousands and tens of thousands of the boys and girls of the State, even from homes connected with the Church, would not attend these Christian colleges and could not be induced to do so. Such moral and spiritual influences as they were to receive during the process of their educational life must be made available in the State schools or the vast majority of the future men and women of the State would miss these influences altogether. He saw that an attitude of jealousy and antagonism or even indifference between the forces of the State



and Christian education could only be mutually hurtful. He contended that it was improper and useless, to say the least, for church leaders to bemoan the low moral and spiritual ideals of secular institutions, if these same church leaders were indisposed to help in a broad and sympathetic way to improve these conditions. With wisdom and diplomacy and that persistence which was a part of his nature, Dr. Sampson labored to lay such a foundation of mutual understanding and sympathy; and to secure such co-ordination and co-operation of Church and State schools as would be to their mutual profit. That a notable progress has been made in this direction there can be no question, and in securing this result Dr. Sampson was an influential factor. In this one particular he rendered large service to the cause of popular education in Texas.

## XII

### CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION IN TEXAS

The broad scope of Dr. Sampson's educational vision and sympathies gave a peculiar potency to the call which came to him in the spring of 1914 to become the Executive Secretary or General Agent of the "Conference for Education in Texas." Without attempting to define the scope of this organization, it was designed, in a general way, to gather up and focus the aspirations, and to unify and make effective the efforts of all the educational forces of the State, from the humblest country school at the cross-roads to the University at the apex of the system. By sympathetic counsel, by various conferences, by lectures on specific needs delivered at strategic centers, by promoting favorable legislation and in all other practicable ways this organization sought to advance the educational interests of the whole people of Texas. When the call was pressed upon Dr. Sampson to take the lead in this movement, it appealed to him very

strongly, but he would not entertain the thought of giving up his work for the Seminary. He was wont to say of the Seminary, "It is my child, and my first responsibility is to it." The Board of Governors of the Conference, however, being determined to secure the service of Dr. Sampson, found a basis of accommodation between these two claims that would enable him to serve both. It was agreed that during the Seminary session Dr. Sampson would give his afternoons to the work of the Conference and manage its interests from the office in the city of Austin and in such ways as would not interrupt his class-room work at the Seminary. The other portion of the year he would devote his whole time and energy to the work of the Conference.

Upon this basis Dr. Sampson accepted this new labor and entered upon his service as Executive Secretary for the Conference on April 1, 1914. With great enthusiasm and confident hope of its wide and permanent value to all the educational interests of the State, Dr. Sampson put his splendid energy into this new task. It will serve to show the



variety and scope of his activities to present here a copy of the report which he submitted to the Board of the Conference.

“In all the history of Texas, no one year has shown such progress in educational matters as that which closed May 31, 1915.

A brief review of the affairs of the Conference for Education in Texas for this period, which is all that this report can give, affords abundant evidence that it has had some part in producing this result and will inspire the confident conviction, if need be, of its present value and future usefulness.

Notwithstanding the very unfavorable conditions with which it has been confronted, there have been varied activities and many visible results of vast moment and promise, although it has been continually embarrassed by lack of sufficient funds. Taking these subjects up in order, it is not necessary to dwell, at any length, upon the well known

### *Unfavorable Conditions*

There was an inherited debt of more than \$1,000. The Spring was wet and consequently depressing, to all lines of business. To say nothing of the Mexican difficulties, the European war soon spread universal dismay and financial stringency, which has not yet disappeared in this State.

From all of these circumstances a condition of the public mind ensued which not only made it unwise to undertake to raise money but almost impossible to get men to think of anything beyond the meeting of their present and pressing obligations. In the face of all these, your General Agent went to work and was fully engaged in the following

### *Activities*

Addresses were made before three of the four Summer Normal Schools, the University of Texas Summer School, the Farmers' Congress at A. & M. (three times) and a large number of county institutes, the Bankers' Association (both men's and women's), the Texas State Teachers' Association, the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Association and the Convention of County Judges.

Valuable bulletins have been issued on four of the five articles in the program of the Conference, prepared by President Estill and Superintendents Kimball, Cunningham and Blair. After careful consideration and consultation it was thought best not to press the matter of the minimum mill tax and no bulletin was issued on that subject, although one was promised by a most competent gentleman. Several other bulletins have been issued on "The Purpose, Program and Policy of the Conference for Education in Texas," "The Educational

Outlook in Texas" as well as "A Call to the Citizens of Texas." These last were all prepared by the General Agent and were, after being published in the press of the State, printed and distributed, in bulletin form, at the expense of the Conference. Another folder on "The Remaking of Country Life," which was an address delivered before the Rotary Club of Austin, was, at its request, printed and distributed at the expense of that body.

Besides these, articles have been prepared and published monthly in the Texas School Journal and Magazine. Addresses were also made before the Committees of both the Senate and House of Representatives and many conferences held with the chairmen of these committees and the Governor, with reference to measures pending before the Legislature.

Taking up some of the more important

### *Visible Results*

The following measures have become law: (1) The Rural School Law; (2) The Compulsory Attendance Law; (3) the following constitutional amendments have been submitted—(a) The removal of the fifty cent limit for school tax in independent districts; (b) The imposing of county tax for school purposes; (c) The granting to counties the right to raise a student Loan Fund.



The professional county superintendent law failed of passage, on the third reading, in the House by a vote of two only, because of the absence from the House, at dinner, of a number of the friends of the bill. It will no doubt become law at the next meeting of the Legislature.

Another far-reaching measure, not in the program of the Conference, has been passed called the Million Dollar Rural School Appropriation.

There are several other matters which should be mentioned:

1. The establishing of most cordial relations between the Conference and A. & M. College, which was much needed.

2. The formation of "The Travis County Co-operative and Improvement Association," a most pregnant and much needed movement, which affords a practical basis for co-operation all over the State.

3. The elimination of some objectionable and injurious yells from the repertoire of the University of Texas and A. & M. College, a matter of far more importance than may at first appear.

4. The preservation of the "Hogg Fund," on its present basis, all of which were in whole, or in large part, effected through the labors of your General Agent.

It may not be improper to say (I hope) that your General Agent was earnestly solicited, by many in high position, to allow his name to be presented before the Board

of Regents for the Presidency of the University of Texas, but he declined to permit this because he thought his present position more important and far-reaching in influence than that of the presidency of any institution, even the highest, in the State.

A copy of this correspondence is herewith attached for your information.

Turning now to the

### *Finances*

It must be remarked that the condition of the treasury is much less satisfactory than could be desired, but by no means discouraging when all things are considered.

1. The old debt has all been paid and the standing of the Conference is now A-1. Its credit, which had suffered sadly, has been entirely re-established in the eyes of the world.

2. Not one cent is now due to anyone, except the General Agent, and this would not be the case had the old debt not been paid, instead of his salary.

3. Through the kindness of friends, chiefly in Austin, all current expenses have been promptly met and the income not exceeded.

4. The expense of a regular stenographer has been cut out for several months and the only overhead charges now are the rent, telephone, and the General Agent's salary with the contingent and traveling expenses as necessary.

The slogan "No politics—no partisanship—no debts" has been and will be conscientiously and strictly observed.

It has not been thought feasible to undertake to do anything yet on the endowment fund scheme. After conference with the President and several members of the Governing Board, it was thought wisest not to undertake the holding of a general session until conditions had improved and the result of Legislative action could be known.

It would not be proper to conclude this report without a word with regard to the policy upon which your Agent, with the full approval of the President and Executive Committee, has proceeded.

1. No appeal has been made to teachers for subscriptions, even those past due. This has silenced a world of criticism and complaint.

2. Appeals have been made to laymen only and the fact emphasized that they should sustain and control largely this Conference in accordance with the policy clearly laid down, at its organization. This policy has been abundantly vindicated and approved.

3. In pursuance of this policy, the President has appointed in the place of those teacher-members of the Governing Board, whose terms expire this year, only laymen, thus changing the proportion from eleven teachers and five laymen to eleven laymen and five teachers.



4. The General Agent did not take the vacation granted him in 1914. He has given all of his time for six months and more than half of his time for the other six months to the work of the Conference.

The General Agent and the Conference owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr. Hugh T. Musselman, for his hearty co-operation and the use of his publication, to those gentlemen, mentioned above, who so kindly prepared the able bulletins when desired, to President Pat M. Neff, State Superintendent W. F. Doughty, President H. F. Estill and Dean Sutton for their most valuable counsel, so freely given at all times, in the conduct of the work, to Messrs. H. A. Wroe, M. Lasker, Dr. E. P. Wilmot, and others for their most liberal gifts which made the continuance of the work, during the financial stringency, possible and to the Austin National Bank for accommodation, as required, on all notes, without interest.

Thanking you for the confidence and the support which you have kindly given me in this great work, I am,

Yours most cordially."

What might have been the ultimate fruit of this activity if Dr. Sampson had not been taken away by death when he had hardly more than formulated and projected his plans, we can only conjecture. The appraisal of the value

of his service and confident hope of others as to what the fruitage might have been will be clearly shown in the following resolution which was adopted by the Governing Board of the Conference:

“At a meeting of the President and Governing Board of the Conference for Education in Texas, held in Austin, November, 1915, the following paper was unanimously adopted:

The Conference for Education in Texas, deeply appreciating the distinguished services of its late General Agent, Dr. T. R. Sampson, hereby places on record an expression of the sense of loss experienced by the officers and members of this organization in common with all patriotic citizens of Texas in his tragic death.

Dr. Sampson was called to the executive agency of the Conference at a time when the wave of enthusiasm connected with the educational campaigns of the preceding years had receded; when the question of financial support had become a pressing one; and when many members of the organization were discouraged as to its future. He at once devoted his tremendous energy and his splendid powers to the great work, with the result that new life was infused into the Conference. Though himself connected with a denominational institution, his advocacy of the education of all the chil-



dren of all the people knew no sect nor creed. He acquainted himself with the public school system of Texas and recognized its most urgent needs. In advocating the measures of the Conference, his lofty character and his profound learning won him the respect of all, while his forceful personality, his genial disposition, his keen sense of humor and ready wit unlocked the doors of the hearts of men.

During the sessions of the Legislature, Dr. Sampson took an active interest in all educational measures, and was recognized as an influential factor in securing the final passage of important legislation. By public addresses on all appropriate occasions he brought the aid of eloquent speech to his task of stimulating educational sentiment among the people. He used the press freely in his advocacy of educational progress, bulletins prepared by himself and by others at his request being sent broadcast throughout the land.

It was Dr. Sampson's ambition to raise an endowment of \$100,000 for the Conference, and thus to make the organization a permanent agency for promoting the educational progress of Texas. Through his tireless efforts \$10,000 of this sum had been conditionally subscribed, and a short time before his death he declared that the remainder was in sight. Had his life been spared, there can be little doubt that the



proposed endowment would have been speedily raised.

Measured by his service to his fellowmen, the life of Dr. Sampson ranks among the greatest of his time. To the cause of education—education in its broadest sense, including every agency for uplifting humanity—his wonderful powers of mind and heart were consecrated. He rests from his labors; his works do follow him.

To his bereaved widow and children the deep sympathy of the Conference for Education in Texas is extended.”

The same sentiments of appreciation and disappointed hopes are given expression in the following paper which was furnished to the press by Dean W. S. Sutton, of the University of Texas:

“The untimely death of Dr. Thornton R. Sampson has brought great personal bereavement to many of his friends scattered throughout the length and breadth of Texas. Professionally considered, the unfortunate ending of his career is a great loss to the school children now living in Texas and to future generations of youth that will gather into our schools. With him, the education of the people was as sacred a passion as their religious development. In fact, he believed that the church and the school are necessary and inseparable allies.

His labors in behalf of the schools that are under the control of the Southern Presbyterian Church in Texas stretched over a long series of years, and far greater success therein came to him than ordinarily falls to the lot of educational leaders. His services in this direction accomplished three great achievements: First, Presbyterian colleges were standardized; secondly, they were brought into sympathetic relation with the State University; thirdly, he helped to found upon a secure financial and educational basis the Austin Theological Seminary, which promises in time to become one of the most modern and efficient schools for the training of preachers to be found in this country.

Again, Dr. Sampson rendered conspicuous service as the Executive Secretary of the Conference for Education in Texas. He had scarcely much more than entered upon his secretarial labors when he was compelled to lay them down, together with all other human enterprises so dear to his heart. He had, however, worked long enough for the Conference to lay wisely plans for the very greatest development of that organization. Those who were closest in his confidence have every reason to believe that, had he been permitted to work twelve or fifteen months longer, he would have raised an endowment fund for the Conference amounting to more than \$100,000.00. His loss at this time seems almost irreparable,

but surely, if the cause for which he labored in the most unselfish way be a just one, there will rise up in Texas a man worthy to succeed him, and friends of all the schools of all the people will rally to his support. Were our deceased friend able to speak now, I am sure he would say that the most splendid monument that could be erected to his memory is to prosecute with vigor unto successful issue the policies which he had formulated for the work of the Conference for Education in Texas."

The paper read by Dr. Sampson before the Rotary Club of Austin, which made such a deep impression and to which reference has already been made, is worthy of permanent preservation because of its clear vision and wise interpretation of some serious phases of our social life. It indicated the range of his observation and thought in the field of the broadest educational and social problems of the time.

#### "THE RE-MAKING OF COUNTRY LIFE"

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"He profits most who serves best."

For the average American, a visit to Europe has peculiar attractions and there are few who do not find such an experience both interesting and instructive. One is



benefited not only by what he finds, that is old or new, but is also often stimulated to a higher appreciation of many things, which he misses there, that are a part of his life at home.

To the traveler from America in Europe, fifty years ago, especially if he came from the South, there was no one thing that was more striking and remarkable than the character of its country life. In fact there seemed to be no country life, as he knew it, at least no country homes, and rural population, for those who cultivated the farms, all lived in the towns or villages. One traveled often for miles without seeing a human habitation, outside of a village, unless it were a castle or some lordly mansion. Such country life as then formed the basis of American civilization was almost unknown there, except in Switzerland, The Netherlands and portions of France and England. The church, the school and all the machinery of religious, intellectual and social life existed only in the village or town.

In America, on the contrary, at that time our Southland was literally dotted over with beautiful homes and full of a life that was simply delightful; villages, except the county seat, were rare or unknown often in whole counties.

Churches were found every few miles and each community not only had its school, but in many instances a few families, and

often a single family, its teacher. The country was covered with resident landlords. One or more resident pastors, ministered to the spiritual needs of the neighborhood; and well trained, often college bred, teachers instructed the youth. These conditions were the basis of a life and civilization which, in many respects, was almost ideal. Only those who have survived it can fully appreciate the charm, intellectual, social and religious, which characterized it. The highest culture, social refinement and moral standards were generally prevalent.

It is necessary to say almost ideal, because there were certainly two *spots*, possibly one should say *blots* upon it. One was the existence of slavery and the other was a certain aristocratic atmosphere or feudalistic spirit, which made the less fortunate whites the objects of some contempt and such social ostracism as to be denominated, even by the slaves, "poor white trash."

Today this same traveler finds no such contrast between Europe and America as is here portrayed. Europe has remained the same. As she has been for centuries, she is now and is likely to continue for some time to come, unless some tremendous social or political revolutionary cataclysm overthrows it and, by violent upheaval, brings into operation new forces and elements of civilization. This may be now impending for Germany, Austria and Rus-

sia, where feudalism is still so largely prevalent.

But America has changed, at least the South has. The cataclysm of the Civil War, with its destructive armies and its material and economic consequences, has in sweeping away the basis of it, also carried away, almost completely the country life as it once existed and now we find a condition much like that in Europe and becoming more so every day. The absentee landlord, the absentee preacher and often the absentee teacher now generally reside in the town, for evident reasons which it is not necessary to set forth, and the country is left increasingly to the shifting and sometimes shiftless tenant farmer alone, and he with his wife and children are condemned to a life of isolation and struggle for existence under adverse circumstances, deprived of any satisfactory or adequate educational, social or religious privileges, where they enjoy them at all.

In some few sections there has been some improvement in the last few years and these give hope and warrant the expectation of a possible general betterment, especially in Eastern Texas and wherever land is cheap. But in the black land sections, especially North and Central Texas, the reports indicate a condition that spells trouble unless wisely dealt with and that soon. For seventy-five per cent. of the population of Texas still lives in the country,



but not one-half of these own their homes. There are over 235,000 tenant farmers!

In many sections of Texas the deserted two-story house, with two good brick chimneys, and the ruins of a church, are the mute but eloquent witnesses of the past, while hard by a miserable one or two-room tenant shack and a one-room school-house on a barren hill, deserted eight months in the year, are the blatant and offensive witnesses of the present condition. These conditions, which are steadily growing worse, will soon become appalling if not checked. They are already threatening and full of danger, a menace to our institutions and civilization. In short, our present condition, without possessing the best features of either of the systems described, affords some of the worse features of both and some bad features peculiar to itself which were found in neither.

It is absolutely necessary to remake our country life. By this it is not meant that we are to make again what we once had and lost. That is not possible, nor even desirable; but we may make this country life over again and, having already eliminated the old features of slavery and feudalism upon which it rested, create new conditions under which country life may become not only wholesome, but beautiful and attractive. We will dare say, because we believe it, it may become even

better than it was before, however much we may have loved the old country life or lament its disappearance. For our eyes and hope are always "forward looking" and our "faith is great in time and Him who shapes it to some better end." Still something worse is not only possible but probable, if nothing is done to meet the situation and one man's life may span not only the chasm between what was and now is, but between what now is and that which is to follow. What will that be? We fear the worst as possible, but we hope for the best as probable, if we are wise enough to strive for it, and we must do that.

It may be worth while to set forth, briefly, the reasons for this hope and some of the forces which seem now co-operating toward the realization of it. It is generally acknowledged that the isolation of country life, with its many evil consequences, the ignorance of the rural population which is such a handicap to all progress, and the individualism, which to a large degree is a consequence of these two, and has made any successful combined effort difficult, if not impossible, have been the greatest hindrances in the way of any general or real improvement in country life. Recognizing these as the obstacles to be overcome, it is gratifying to note that there are many forces and influences now converging to overcome or remove them.

Over against isolation may be set communication and under this title may be grouped, without dwelling upon them, the movements, national, state and local, for better roads, for rural free delivery, parcels post, as well as the increasing use of automobiles and the extension of telephone and interurban lines. It is not unreasonable to hope that, within a few years, this isolation, hitherto almost intolerable, especially to the women, will have largely, if not entirely, disappeared.

Over against ignorance may be set cultivation. The public school has come to stay, and while the rural school in Texas is by no means a thing of which a well-informed Texan dare to boast and is indeed generally something of which he should be heartily ashamed, it is evident that a day of better things, for this neglected member of our school system, has come. The thought, the interest and the combined effort of all the educational forces in Texas seem now focused upon the rural school, and we believe that these are "the prologue of the omen coming on."

It may be confidently expected that the outcome of these forces will be marked intellectual, industrial, social, moral and religious improvement. The country school is destined soon to become the center of a new community life, through the combined efforts of State and Church, in their respective spheres, and the resident in the



country may, with self-respect, be able to keep his family away from the demoralizing associations of the small town and bring them up and educate them adequately without sacrificing their rural-mindedness.

Over against individualism may be set co-operation. Individualism is a result of selfishness or suspicion. Selfishness is the child of the devil and only divine power can eradicate it, but suspicion may be, and is generally, born of ignorance. When, by the facilities of communication and the privileges of cultivation, the separating walls of suspicion have been broken down, by the advance of acquaintance with one's neighbors and knowledge of general conditions, as well as their own environment, then many of the problems of production and distribution, which now so heavily handicap the farmer, may be solved and through scientific methods and intelligent, hearty co-operation with one another and with the neighboring towns, both may go forward with mutual benefit.

The lack of intelligence or knowledge is what has made all previous efforts at combination among farmers so unsuccessful or ineffective. More may now be expected through the co-operation of the schools, the extension work of the higher institutions, the State and Federal governments and the churches of all denominations with the Unions, Associations and

Clubs of whatever name, for the betterment of rural conditions and life.

These are at least some of the influences and forces which, if properly supported and wisely directed, will help to enable the isolated to become neighbors, the ignorant intelligent, the individual co-operative, the shiftless thrifty, and the miserable happy, so far as happiness is dependent upon external conditions, and they undoubtedly have much influence.

There is one other matter which should be mentioned, with which, however, we will not undertake to deal; not only because it bristles with difficulties, but because of our freely confessed incompetence to render any substantial aid to the solution of the problem it presents. It seems, however, to be generally recognized that the time has come when some laws should be made, more favorable to the small land-owner and for the promotion and encouragement of the purchase and possession of homes, as has been done in Ireland, with such marked good results, and is now being considered in Great Britain. Something must be done, and that soon, in this direction or we will be face to face, in a modified form, with such a condition as has prevailed in Ireland and still prevails in Mexico, with cultured, wealthy landlords and ignorant, impoverished tenants, in open conflict. Such a condition in the United States would mean the overthrow of all that we prize

most highly in our civilization. May no such day ever come to us! But it is almost imminent. The issue must be frankly and fully recognized and patriotically and unselfishly met, or the doom of our civilization is inevitable. The just claims or rights of the many are now clamoring for satisfaction, at the hands of the unequal special privileges of the few, the world over, and they will and ought to prevail, however long existent and firmly entrenched by precedent, custom or legal enactment these privileges may be.

What has occurred within the last ten years in China, in Turkey, in Mexico and is in the last analysis now convulsing Europe, cannot long be kept outside of our borders unless some wise adjustment is made. American common sense and sense of justice, with the application of Christian principles, will, we are confident, be able to overcome the difficulties of the future as they have successfully met those of the past.

The best energies of both State and Church should be marshalled harmoniously in this warfare for home, country and Christian civilization."



## XIII

### LAST DAYS

The two great interests in Dr. Sampson's life as he came to the summer of 1915 were the Seminary and the Conference for Education in Texas. With abiding zeal for all the interests of the Seminary, happy and fruitful in his labors there, and confident of its growing power and usefulness in training a ministry for the Church in the Southwest, the Seminary, in the founding of which Dr. Sampson had been so signally guided and blessed by the providence of God, retained its first and peculiar place in his affection.

In addition to this, his clear vision of extending the opportunity for education throughout all the State, of multiplying and improving the quality of rural schools in particular, of elevating the tone and broadening the scope and purifying the ideals of popular education—all of this as fostered by the Conference for Education, of which he was the active representative, held his profound

interest. In the prime of his mental vigor and with the energy of his personality unimpaired, it seemed that there were many years of service before him, the ripest and richest and most far-reaching of all, a fitting culmination of his previous years of varied training and service in many lands and places.

In the summer of 1915 Dr. Sampson went to Colorado for a short vacation and period of rest. He loved the mountains. They seemed to give to him not only a physical invigoration, but a new inspiration and poise for the mind and heart. He was not only rested in body, but stronger in soul after a season of communion with the mountains. He was an experienced mountain climber. He had tramped in the high altitudes of Asia and Europe, and found unfailing interest and pleasure in the mountains of Colorado. Mrs. Sampson, for whom the mountain tramping was too strenuous, remained in Denver, and Dr. Sampson left there on August 11th for a fishing trip and a tramp through the Estes Park region. He went alone and he was expected to return on September 5th. The last word which came from

him was a letter to Mrs. Sampson, dated August 21st. In its simple and natural expression it is characteristic and it also indicates the keen enjoyment which he found in his outings in the mountains.

Rand, *Saturday, 21st, 1915.*

*Darling Mother:*

On Thursday, just as I arrived in Rand, I sent you a card, which I hope you received or will receive before you get this. It took me all of yesterday to rest up after my tramp, so that I have nothing of interest to record except that I called on my old friend, Peter Monroe, the Canadian blacksmith, and his wife, who is one of the finest little women in "The Park." They seemed very glad to see me and he insisted on my taking one of his pet horses to ride while I am up here. He is worth some forty thousand dollars, I suppose, and has a large herd of horses and cattle. The little mare he lent me is a beauty; he calls her the "Gipsy Queen" and fondles her like a kitten. I have not yet used her, but she is in the stable and I will ride her this afternoon. The "Forest Ranger" here is a Mr. Stevens, from Georgia, the same man who was here when I was up here before. He has insisted that I should stay with him and I have consented to do so, on the consideration that I bear my portion of the expense for supplies, which will be much



cheaper and more comfortable than in the miserable little hotel. He has a wife and a little baby six months old. I help split the wood, I draw the water and do all the necessary chores when he is away, which is a good part of the time. I have also taken my turn at nursing the baby, which is sweet and clean.

The air and weather and mountains are as fine as ever, but these abominable autos have invaded the place and the hunting will soon be all gone and the fishing sadly interfered with. There were three camping parties here last night and at least a dozen have passed through to-day. The government is working on the roads and soon there will be no place inaccessible to these miserable little Fords except the Peaks.

Tomorrow I am going up to see some friends who live out of the reach of anybody else, about half a mile from the top of one of the most difficult passes. They say I am the only visitor they have ever had. I shall take up the mail and some fresh meat and spend the night with them, possibly.

The people here are all busy "haying" and the weather has been so unfavorable that they are working day and night and Sundays, too, to get on. You would scarcely know me, I fear, if you should see me. I am all sun-burned and blistered, my nose and chin have both peeled clean

and I will be all new, so far as the skin is concerned, when I get back.

The mail is due to-day and I hope to have a letter from you, although I scarcely expect it. The papers give terrible accounts from Texas of the storms at Galveston and elsewhere. Am glad we were not there.

I hope you and "the girls" continue to have a good time and that you are not without good news of the children.

Your own loving Father.

From this trip he did not return. He was last seen on September 2nd by a party of mountain climbers who met him as they were tramping in an opposite direction. He was then going on foot in the direction of Rocky Mountain National Park. The end is not known. Mrs. Sampson after some days in which she received no word became alarmed. Every possible effort was made to find the lost traveler, to bear assistance to him if living, or to recover his body if dead. Dr. Sampson was a personal friend of President Wilson and well known to Attorney General Gregory and Secretary Houston of the Department of Agriculture. In addition to every private effort, the assistance of these agencies of the government were em-

ployed, but no trace of the missing man was ever found. It is supposed that he was lost in a severe wind and snow storm which occurred on September 3rd, and which old residents of the mountains said it would have been impossible for even an experienced mountaineer to survive without shelter.

The tidings that Dr. Sampson had perished in the mountains and that all hope even for the recovery of his body had been abandoned came as a great shock to his friends in Texas and throughout the Church at large. There was a distinct sense of community loss in the city of Austin, where he had been active in affairs for civic betterment and was held in high esteem for his worth as a citizen. A public memorial service was held in Austin on October 3rd, at which the President of the Seminary presided. Many expressions of appreciation and love for Dr. Sampson, and of the deep sense of loss in his untimely death were made, and the variety of these expressions and the representative character of the great audience indicated the wide scope of his interest and activity as a man among men. Upon this occasion





T. R. SAMPSON AND HELEN AT HOME OF CONSUL LAZZARO



the Honorable Pat M. Neff, of Waco, representing the Conference for Education in Texas, made one of the principal addresses and, in part, spoke as follows:

“Tongues more eloquent than mine have and others will on this occasion twine about his honored brow the laurel leaves of fame so justly won and so nobly worn by Dr. T. R. Sampson as he worked amid the busy walks of men. In the name of the Conference for Education in Texas, of which he was at the time of his death the active and efficient agent and representative, I desire as its president and in its name to tender tribute to his memory and deposit a tear-stained wreath in his honor.

“It is proper here to say that this Conference for Education in Texas, organized in 1907, is a non-political and non-denominational organization and includes in its program of progress and promotion all the institutions of learning in Texas, from the lowest to the highest. Dr. Sampson believed that work of this kind was as deeply religious as any work he had connected with his Seminary duties, and that education and religion always go hand in hand. Thus believing, at our invitation he entered the work and warfare in behalf of the betterment of our school system with the educational courage of a cavalier and the religious convictions of a crusader,



and how well he wrought future generations will tell, for

“He will live upon the lips of childhood,  
Live in manhood’s deepest prime;  
In the high, pure heart of woman,  
Fadeless in his deeds sublime.”

“My acquaintance with Dr. Sampson only extended over a few years, and yet he was so open-hearted, so lovable, so deft and delicate in his demeanor and so courteous and courtly in his conduct that when I was in his presence I felt that I had known him always. He was in this educational work as in other undertakings an optimist of the highest type and loving as he did his fellow-man, he ‘counted that day lost whose low descending sun viewed from his hand no worthy action done’ in behalf of the school children of the State. The wise educational laws that were passed beneath his guiding hand and his untiring efforts for the uplift of the schools and colleges of Texas have added an aureole of resplendent lustre to the fadeless glory of the Lone Star. When the clock of destiny sounded the hour of his death the Conference for Education in Texas not only lost its active head; the million school children of the State not only lost their fearless defender; higher education not only lost its noblest advocate, but the educational interests of all Texas lost a most useful and distinguished educator.

“While Dr. Sampson is gone from among us, his sweet memory will be cherished by us and lessons of hope and inspiration will linger with us while life shall last. Un-speakably sad was the manner of his going and yet about it there clings and clusters an ennobling sentiment and a reverential beauty that tends to enrich the life he lived and add a charm to the death he died. Methinks I can see him now surrounded by scenes he loved so well, far up amid the wondrous works of nature, standing upright and alone, communing with God and consciously meeting the hour of his death as he had met the duties of life—without fear. Finally soothed and sustained by an unfaltering trust, he viewed with a conscious eye yet without alarm his house of clay go down beneath the beating storm as the mortal put on immortality.”

When it became generally known that Dr. Sampson was dead, letters of condolence from far and near came to Mrs. Sampson. Many of these were from former students of Dr. Sampson, now scattered in different parts of the country, conveying a tender sympathy to the widow in her bereavement and expressing the personal affection which they cherished for their former teacher. A notable feature of these letters was

their frequent testimony to the force of Dr. Sampson as a teacher and the impression which his personality had made upon the character and life of the men. This spontaneous outflow of sorrow and sympathy was very precious to the desolated family, and to the intimate friends of Dr. Sampson who loved him and cherished his memory as the great and good man that he was.

In the period of anxiety and suspense following Dr. Sampson's disappearance and while it seemed there might still be some hope that he would be found alive, Mrs. Sampson received the following letter from the Honorable T. S. Maxey, Judge of the United States Court:

El Paso, Texas,  
*September 23, 1915.*

*My Dear Mrs. Sampson:*

My wife and I have heard with profound sorrow and regret of the reported loss of your honored and beloved husband in the mountains of Colorado. Dr. Sampson was too active and zealous in all educational and charitable works to be so suddenly and untimely summoned. While we fear the worst, we still feel there is a hope that the Doctor may yet be found. Whatever may be his fate, we must bow with reverence



to God's will. If he has been taken, you have the comforting assurance that the separation will not be long, and a meeting beyond the skies, where there is no more parting, will soon be yours to enjoy.

With the heartfelt sympathy of my wife and myself,

Sincerely your friend,

T. S. MAXEY.

Later there came from across the sea a message of sympathy from Lord Guthrie, Lord Chief Justice in Scotland in the King's Court:

Edinburg,

20th November, 1915.

*My Dear Mrs. Sampson:*

The overwhelming news has just reached us in a letter from Janet. We can scarcely realize it, although it fills our thoughts and we often speak of it. I first met your husband in Athens in 1879. He was a man to fall in love with at first sight, and I did so. But the oftener one met him, the impression deepened of a great and gracious personality. I remember how he described Xenophon Moschou, when he put him under our charge in Edinburg, as "an exceptional Greek," as he has indeed always proved to be.

Your husband was an exceptional man. At least, we have met very, very few to

compare with him, and we shall always be grateful that we were privileged to know him. I wrote to Janet, and I repeat it, that we always thought of her father as a man of a finer mould, physically, mentally, spiritually, than other men, his very look that of a Bayard, of a Sir Galahad, *sans peur et sans reproche*. I added that, with all of his extraordinary charm of manner, and his boyish enjoyment of life, you always felt that, if it came to a question of principle—of right and wrong, of just and unjust, of generous and mean—he was like flint, inflexible and immovable. We associate with his bright and blessed memory the words of the Roman poet on his brother's grave:

“Amavimus, Amamus, Amabimus,”  
We loved him through the years,  
We love him still,  
We shall love him always.

My wife sends her deep sympathy and her loving regards.

Yours affectionately,

CHARLES J. GUTHRIE.

From the old days of association in the East, words of affection and sympathy came to Mrs. Sampson from the wife of the American Consul at Salonika.

Thessalonica,

January, 1916.

*My Dear Friends:*

The very sad news has only now reached

us! Both my husband and myself take a large part in your so justified sorrow. Always we had much wished to meet again with our so appreciated friend.

Praying the Almighty to give health and happiness to your dear children, and to keep you with them, we ask you to believe us always.

Your sincere old friends,  
Pericles and Effie Hadji Lazzaro.

Of special interest and significance in their appraisal of the value of Dr. Sampson's labors are two letters from men who had intimate knowledge of his life and work in Texas, and such close personal association with him as to qualify them to pass judgment upon his service. They are from the Honorable T. W. Gregory, Attorney General of the United States, and Dr. S. E. Mezes, President of the University of New York City and formerly for many years President of the University of Texas.

Soo-Nipi Park, New Hampshire.

*26th July, 1916.*

*Dear Mrs. Sampson:*

I am glad to know that an account of Dr. Sampson's life and work is to be published. His experience was so varied and broad, and his accomplishments so signifi-



cant that a record should be made of them.

We worked together, as you know, nearly twenty years, intimately for the last four or five of them, and I came to regard him as one of the really strong educational leaders of Texas. He brought to the State an uncommon wealth of experience, and knowledge of men and affairs, gathered during his religious and educational activities in many fields, especially in and about Constantinople, where all races meet; and all this he used with devotion and skill to enrich and deepen the intellectual and spiritual life of Texas.

In the face of difficulties few adequately appreciated he succeeded in locating the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, and brought it into sympathetic co-operation with the State University. The deep advantage of this co-operation to both institutions, and to their students and faculties, is only beginning to be understood; and the example it set has already been followed by other denominations more or less closely, and will continue to be followed and developed in the future. Such co-operation has the utmost significance. It brings religion nearer to the students of a great institution that has the single limitation of being per force secular, and brings the best and highest education and a broadened experience to the religious leaders of the future.

I remember well the morning some years

ago when Dr. Sampson and I discussed at length the invitation he had just received to become General Agent of the Conference for Education in Texas, which invitation he soon after accepted. His plans for mobilizing—we used other words—all the educational resources of Texas were as practical and detailed as they were far-reaching. With characteristic catholicity he purposed to knit together into a co-working unity all the educational agencies of the State without exception, higher and lower, public and private, cultural and technical, religious and secular. Each for all and all for each, he foresaw they and their common cause would prevail. But, as we spoke, he sounded one note again and again. What gripped him most was the giving of a full opportunity to the strong, bright country boy. Had Dr. Sampson lived a decade longer the Conference for Education in Texas would have become a great power and a stimulating example, and his achievement through it would have crowned a life already rich in accomplishment.

Believe me, my dear Mrs. Sampson.

Very sincerely yours,

S. E. Mezes.

The Attorney General.

Washington, *July 4, 1916.*

*My Dear Mrs. Sampson:*

For some time I have been intending to

write you a letter, inadequate though I knew it would be, to express my sincere sympathy.

For twenty years I was honored with the friendship of your husband, and held him as one of my most intimate friends. My acquaintance with him began when he was connected with Austin College, continued through the years when he bore the financial brunt of sustaining the various institutions of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Texas, and afterwards as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Austin, Texas, I came into intimate and almost weekly contact with him.

We seldom think of a departing friend as a combination of various talents and characteristics, but rather of some unusual trait which especially distinguished his career.

In lovingly recalling Dr. Sampson I always think of his human nature, his interest in all the things worth while, and his influence with thousands of people who cared little for the problems which demanded most of his time.

He would have been a success in any business or profession because of his catholic love for humanity, his ability to appreciate the ordinary man, and his lack of cant.

The loss to our Church and to the Seminary can perhaps not be repaired at all, but, after all, the greatest loss is felt by his



innumerable friends who mourn his untimely end.

Permit me to class myself as one of these.

Sympathetically, your friend,

T. W. Gregory.

Besides his beloved wife, Dr. Sampson is survived by four children: Janet (Mrs. Halsted Parsons), Toronto, Canada; Mary (Mrs. Ewell Drake), Orange, Tex.; Frank Watkins Sampson, Atlanta, Ga.; Helen (Mrs. Arthur Wooldridge), Toronto, Canada; and three grandchildren: Helen Dudley Parsons, John Sampson Drake, and Frank Austin Wooldridge.

## XIV

### CONCLUSION

Truly there is a touch of romance in the story of this man. The stream of his life flowed deeply and far, and there was much of fertility and noble fruitage along its course. Through the passing years there was a complexity of contact with the world, a scope of observation and experience with men and affairs, a variety of labors and achievements, such as does not attend the life of many.

Born amid the quiet scenes of a Virginia countryside, with godly and scholarly traditions behind him, his first years breathed the air and received the impression of the classic and sacred environment of Hampden-Sidney and the Seminary.

He was thrust as a boy into the penury and privation and struggle of farm life amid the desolations following the Civil War. In these battles of his youth the limitations of poverty and the necessity for severe manual toil clashed with the dreams and ambitions which stirred his soul and beckoned him to wider and larger

pursuits. The courage and triumph with which he met these early difficulties struck deeply into the character of the man. It is significant that, after the lapse of a life-time and notable labors in many fields, the last dream which lured his soul in its ripest years was the taking of hope and help and the open door of opportunity to the country boy.

The aspiration of his young manhood to secure the broadest scholarship and widest culture possible, as with low resources but high courage, he won his way through the period of his studies in the schools of Europe.

The quick and radical shifting of the current of his ambition and life-purpose, by what unreported vision of his soul we know not, so that the young man eagerly put his life upon the altar of Christ as a missionary of the cross.

The happy and busy years in Athens and Salonika, in friendly and congenial fellowship with many of high station and with abundant and tireless ministries to the most lowly and humble.

The shifting of the stream of his life to flow again in the homeland, his valiant crusade among the churches for men and



munitions for the great campaign of missions out on the frontier of the heathen world, his zealous service at Fredericksburg, where the character of his labors afforded an unique opportunity for enlisting the two deepest passions of his life, the educational and missionary.

The journey westward at the call of the Church to his labors and achievements in College and Seminary in Texas, the dream of a brighter day for all educational interests of all sorts in all the State. Truly the tracing of the course of this life stream is not without its touches of romance.

With his powers of mind and heart at their best, and with his strength untouched by the limitations of age, and apparently with years of distinguished service still before him, he went up into the mountains for rest, and he was not for God took him, and the place of his sepulchre no man knoweth unto this day.

“And had he not high honor?  
The hillside for his pall,  
To lie in state while angels wait,  
With stars for tapers tall.

“The dark rock-pines like tossing plumes  
Over his bier to wave,

And God's own hand in that lonely land  
To lay him in the grave.

"God hath His mysteries of grace,  
Ways that we cannot tell;  
He hides them deep, like the secret sleep  
Of him He loved so well."

In appraising the qualities of Dr. Sampson's personality there are some features which distinguished him in a high degree. He was a man of broad culture and many-sided scholarship, yet it raised no barrier between him and plain folk of little culture. Indeed in his intercourse with men, he exhibited a modesty of spirit and an absence of display which made possible a congenial fellowship with men of no scholastic attainments. In addition to this equipment of scholarship, it is the consensus of testimony by the men who enjoyed his instruction that he possessed the special talent as a teacher which could impart enthusiasm to the student and clothe the dry bones of scholastic facts with a vital and fascinating interest.

In his religious life there was not much evidence of the artificial. His faith was not of the type that is run through a conventional mould. Indeed, he made

no superficial effort to conform to prescribed and fixed conventionalism as such. But because of the very fact that his faith was so vital, with its roots struck deeply into the experience of his own soul, it was simple and natural and avoided display. Beneath this simplicity there was a depth of conviction, and a dominion of conscience, and a devotion to God that gave complexion to all that he was and to all that he did, so that the totality of his complex life was of the very nature of a sacrament.

As a preacher, Dr. Sampson was always clear and logical and forceful in his presentation of truth, simple and quiet in delivery, but deeply earnest in spirit. Though the labors of his life after his return from the missionary field were not in the pastorate, yet he was often in the pulpit and was always heard with interest and profit.

One very notable quality of Dr. Sampson and one secret of his many achievements was his strength of will, his persistence in pushing on to the goal which he had set for himself, his invincible purpose never to give up. When the road was rough and difficulties were encoun-



tered, he did not lose his poise, his courage did not fail, and he kept on his way. He had reduced to terms of practical living the spirit of the twenty-seventh Psalm and was wont in times of strain to fortify his soul with its composure and courage. He was a wise and resourceful counselor in any difficult situation, a steady helmsman in a time of storm, a leader with the mettle to captain a forlorn hope.

As a man among men he was simple in his manner, natural and jovial in his disposition, a gentle personality and a delightful companion. Dr. Sampson had that rare combination of qualities which made him both a dreamer and a builder. He was a seer whose vision held within its scope the broad outlines of things large and remote, and yet he had a genius for details and was a careful and practical man, the patient and persistent builder of his dreams.

His labors here are ended. When at last the web of the life of men is taken from the loom by the great Weaver, and the various and often unsuspected threads of influence which have been woven into the fabric of destiny are

traced to their source, it will be found that the touch of this man's soul upon the souls of other men has been very wide and deep. These beautiful lines, penned by love in memory of another, may very appropriately close this imperfect sketch:

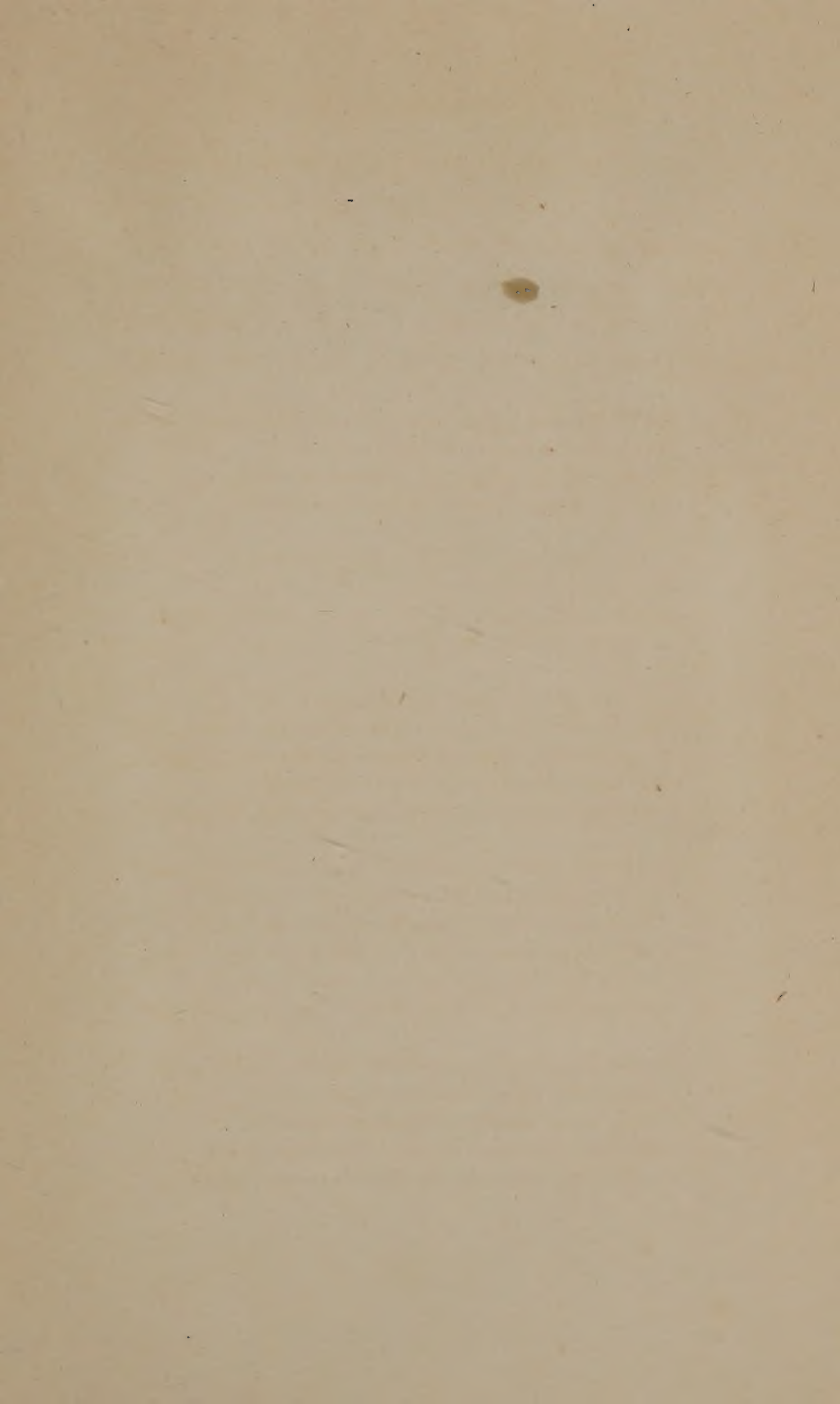
"Lord, grant him still some task for heart and brain—  
A man's rich day of usefulness again!  
Eager, yet all unhurried—poised to meet  
All Fate holds forth of triumph or defeat.

"O God most wise—Who deftly takes away  
The tools and playthings of our little day,  
Take youth, and hope, and dreams surpassing fair,  
But not the work we love!

"Somehow, somewhere,  
The master mind moves toward the goal it sought!  
Spare him his splendid quest—his crystal thought—  
His vision sure, that was our all-delight  
Till dusk enwrapped him, and the long, long night.

"The scene—where shifted? Where at Thy behest  
That hoard of priceless lore made manifest?  
What service for the restless hand and heart,  
So lavish of the wealth they could impart?  
Surely Thy blessed vineyard cannot spare  
Such craftsman, but must hold him dear and rare!

"Some day, in Thy good time, shall we once more  
About him press, and marvel as before?  
Shall we of lesser mold behold him still  
On Thy high tasks intent—dauntless of will,  
And in his work the old-time matchless skill?"







PROPERTY

LIBRARY

920 J76trs

Jones, Arthur Gray.

Thornton Rogers Sampson,

1852-1915



